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### MILITARY

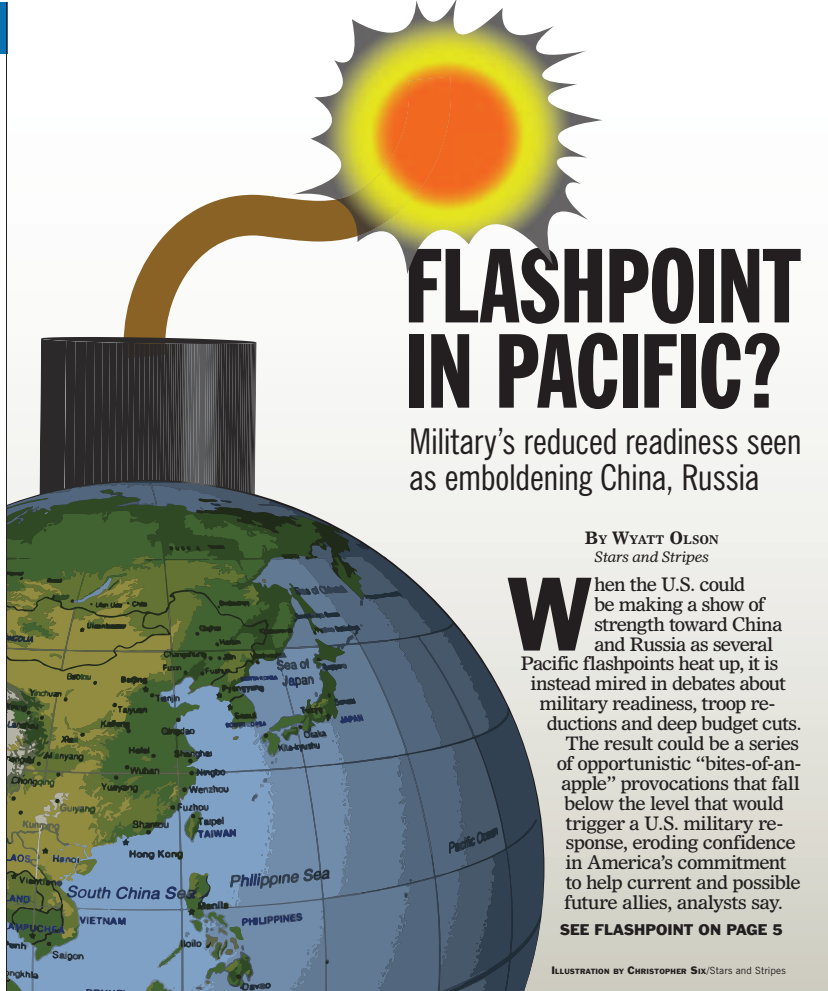
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## FLASHPOINT IN PACIFIC?

Military's reduced readiness seen as emboldening China, Russia

By Wyatt Olson  
*Stars and Stripes*

**W**hen the U.S. could be making a show of strength toward China and Russia as several Pacific flashpoints heat up, it is instead mired in debates about military readiness, troop reductions and deep budget cuts.

The result could be a series of opportunistic "bites-of-an-apple" provocations that fall below the level that would trigger a U.S. military response, eroding confidence in America's commitment to help current and possible future allies, analysts say.

**SEE FLASHPOINT ON PAGE 5**

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

## 31st MEU commander resigns amid inquiry

By Matthew M. Burke  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The commander of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, considered the U.S. military's pre-eminent amphibious fighting force in the Asia-Pacific region, has been forced out for allegedly creating a hostile work environment at the unit's headquarters, Marine Corps officials said Tuesday.

Col. John Merna resigned following a preliminary inquiry within the command element into allegations of "intemperate behavior" and "language," according to a Marine Corps statement. The allegations were first made in a command climate survey.

Merna's resignation was accepted by Lt. Gen. John Wissler, commander of the III Marine Expeditionary Force. Merna has been

in command of the 31st MEU since June 1, 2012.

"Merna, a combat veteran and a widely respected leader, recognized his incompatibility to continue leading the 31st MEU, accepted responsibility and accountability for his actions, and immediately rendered a letter requesting termination of his command authority and responsibility," the statement said.

**SEE INQUIRY ON PAGE 3**



Merna

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We're not saying we are better than the soldiers, but we know the bush better than the soldiers."

— Sarkin Baka, a spokesman for a group of hundreds of traditional Nigerian hunters who are ready to join the search for nearly 300 schoolgirls kidnapped by Islamic extremists in Nigeria

See story on Page 10

# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

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2. Yokota conducts massive weekend drug testing
3. GI dies in Jordan of gunshot wound
4. 31st MEU commander resigns on Okinawa amid inquiry
5. USFK leaders investigating sudden drop in civilians' post allowance

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Witness to an exorcism



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# MILITARY

# Carpenter to receive MOH in June

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Former Marine Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter will be awarded the Medal of Honor on June 19 for his actions in Afghanistan, the White House announced Monday.

Carpenter, 24, will receive the nation's highest award for valor for diving on top of an enemy grenade to save the life of his friend, Lance Cpl. Nicholas Eufrazio, during an insurgent attack in the Marjah district of Helmand province on Nov. 21, 2010. Then-Lance Cpl. Carpenter was serving as an Automatic Rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Regimental Combat Team-1, 1st Marine Division (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) when insurgents threw a grenade on a rooftop where Carpenter and Eufrazio were standing guard.

Marines who were deployed with Carpenter told the Marine Corps Times that they believed Carpenter took the brunt of the grenade blast to save Eufrazio because of the nature of the wounds he sustained.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Frend, the Navy corpsman who triaged the two Marines, said the blast seat of the grenade — which indicates the detonation location — was found on Carpenter's torso. Frend said Carpenter's



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Medically retired Marine Lance Cpl. Kyle Carpenter speaks to media at the Pentagon last week. On June 19, President Barack Obama will award Carpenter the Medal of Honor.

injury would have been different if the grenade had exploded on top of him instead of under him, which suggests that Carpenter smothered the grenade with his body.

Carpenter and Eufrazio survived the blast, but suffered severe wounds. Carpenter lost an eye and most of his teeth and shattered his jaw; his arm was also broken in several places.

In July 2013, Carpenter was medically retired due to his war wounds. He is currently a full-

time student at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

After a long recovery and more than 30 surgeries, Carpenter ran the Marine Corps Marathon last year and posted a time of 4:28:42, according to the "Operation Kyle" Facebook page, which was created by his supporters.

"It's hard to comprehend that three years ago today my life and body was torn apart by an enemy hand grenade on a hot dusty rooftop in Afghanistan," Carpenter wrote on the Operation Kyle page

last year, on the third anniversary of the attack.

"At times it has felt so long ago and yet, when I close my eyes, I can still feel the warm blood pouring out of me onto my skin and fading out of consciousness with my the final thought of 'I'm going to die' in my head ...

"And here I am. I just want to thank and remind all of you how much it means and how truly appreciative I am for every comment, message, word of encouragement and prayer you have sent my way since that day in November 2010. You have helped get me to where I am today and for that I will be forever grateful. It took a life changing event to get me to truly appreciate the precious and amazing life I have been blessed with.

"Please take it from me ... enjoy everyday to the fullest, don't take life too seriously, always try to make it count, appreciate the small and simple things, be kind and help others, let the ones you love always know you love them and when things get hard, trust there is a bigger plan and that you will be stronger for it."

Carpenter will be the eighth living recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. He will receive the award from President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony.

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# Marine aircraft ready for possible Libya evacuation

Stars and Stripes

A Marine crisis-response team has deployed additional aircraft in Sicily as it awaits orders for a possible evacuation of American officials in Libya.

An undisclosed number of KC-130s and Ospreys from an air base in Spain joined the six craft already pre-positioned at U.S. Naval Air Station Sigonella, said Capt. David Davidson, spokesman for the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response Unit.

About 180 Marines and sailors with the team were moved last week with the six original aircraft

from Moron Air Base in Spain. Although officials would say only that they were there in response to threats in northern Africa, it is likely the deployment was in response to growing concerns over militia battles in northern Libya and their proximity to Americans at the embassy in Tripoli.

Several countries, including Saudi Arabia and Algeria, have already closed their diplomatic missions in Tripoli.

The team had yet to receive orders as of Tuesday afternoon, although they remain ready, David said.

Created in the wake of the 2012 attack on a diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, the crisis-response team has been mobilized periodically as threats arise in Africa. The team took part in embassy evacuations in South Sudan last year.

The battles in Libya came after fighters loyal to a former regime general and later rebel leader attacked Islamist militias in the eastern city of Benghazi and the parliament in Tripoli. The general, Khalifa Hifter, has long opposed the Islamist groups that have dominated the country's

east since the 2011 ouster of the Moammar Gadhafi regime.

One of those groups, Ansar al-Sharia, is believed to be responsible for the Sept. 11, 2012, attack that killed four Americans at the U.S. facility in Benghazi, including ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Other militias and groups have mobilized and vowed support for each side since the fighting began on Friday, leading to concerns that the violence is more serious than the skirmishes common between groups in recent years.

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## MILITARY

## DOD may enlist more noncitizens

By CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is reviewing a program that allows qualified noncitizens to enlist in the military, and officials say they'll consider expanding it to cover some who now live in the United States illegally.

With legislative efforts stalled that would allow undocumented foreign nationals seeking citizenship to enlist in the military, the Pentagon and the White House are looking at alternatives, the Defense Department's head of personnel said Monday at a Congressional hearing in Chicago.

"We look forward to the time when we'll be able to grant more individuals the opportunity to serve this great nation," said Jessica Wright, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, or MAVNI, has been used by the services to enlist nearly 3,000 foreign nationals with vital language and medical skills since 2009. The program currently excludes undocumented immigrants, but federal law gives the secretary of defense wide leeway in accepting military members deemed "vital to the national interest."

Wright said the DOD believes in "moving forward" on defining U.S. vital interests. Allowing undocumented foreign nationals raised in the United States to enlist would provide a

larger pool of qualified applicants, as well as more diversity within the DOD, she said.

"But we think it's very important to take a look at the MAVNI program that was established a while ago and see what that 'vital to the national interest' means," Wright said at the hearing organized by Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense.

Durbin for years has pushed immigration reform that would, among other things, allow children brought to the United States illegally to gain citizenship through college education or military service.

Immigration reform legislation has passed the Senate but is stalled in the House of Representatives. And House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said Friday he wouldn't allow debate on a bill filed by a fellow Republican, Rep. Jeff Denham, of California, to allow children brought illegally into the country to enlist.

Some House Republicans have bashed such efforts, saying they reward lawlessness.

"Our nation's military is full of dedicated men and women and to disrespect them by rewarding illegal aliens with citizenship is an insult," Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, said in a recent statement.

While undocumented immigrants are normally barred by federal law from the military, the law also allows the secretary of defense to make exceptions vital to the national interest, Durbin said.

"If the House Republicans refuse to move immigration reform," Durbin said, "the Defense Department should use its authority under current law to authorize the enlistment of dreamers," as young immigrants raised in the United States are often called.

The MAVNI program, which officials say has been most heavily used by the Army during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is set to expire in September but might be extended.

"The Department is in the process of reviewing ... program criteria," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen said Tuesday in an email. "A final decision has not yet been made."

Currently, Wright said, the MAVNI program exists to capture specific skills and language abilities — and the languages don't include Spanish, common in the military and spoken by a large portion of the population who would be affected by immigration reform.

The Pentagon and the White House are "joined at the hip" on the issue, and agree that immigration reform is of vital importance, she said.

About 30,000 foreign nationals currently serve in the active-duty U.S. military as well as the Guard and reserve components, the Pentagon says. For immigrants who hold legal residency, military service is a path to citizenship, with nearly 93,000 military members taking the U.S. citizenship oath since 2002.

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## Say what?

A sample of reader comments from  
[stripes.com](http://stripes.com)



## Horror stories on Phoenix vets care

More than 200 veterans and family members packed into Phoenix's American Legion Post 41 last week to share horror stories of delays, misdiagnoses and poor treatment in the VA system there. In attendance were the national commander of the American Legion and the interim director of the Phoenix Veterans Affairs clinic.

## Readers respond:

My god... These are true HORROR stories. It is no wonder why claims are denied ALL THE TIME. ... When I hear that VA executives get bonuses up to \$50,000 annually ...

— Charles Jones

It's just not that — also their Dr. agree with my claim (2 Dr.) and still they deny me going on 8 yrs now. I'm very sick too. I'm a very nice guy but I have my limits! Please help me! VA Motto: Deny, Deny, Delay, Delay until they DIE!

— marine vet

There's an old saying in government, you risk little by saying no. It's saying yes that can get you in trouble. Many of these groups getting grants to help vets, like Sacramento Veteran's Resource Center don't give a damn about vets. We are just the target species these poverty parasites use to justify their fat salaries.

— day\_in\_the\_sun

Too many in the VA just don't care about veterans. Close down the VA health care system and give qualifying vets vouchers for civilian care. Let VA disability and education claims be handled by county veterans' service officers.

— otisneedleman

Glad I have retiree Tricare and my federal employee health insurance and don't have to rely on this garbage.

— Thecalmvoiceofreason

That is the whole problem the VA health system was never intended to function as an insurance plan for veterans to rely on completely. But far to many rely on it as such.

mashcrack

Join the fray at:  
[stripes.com/go/phoenixVA](http://stripes.com/go/phoenixVA)

## US troops will train in Jordan

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — More than 6,000 U.S. troops are expected in Jordan this week for a military exercise meant to signal American commitment to the region.

Dubbed Eager Lion, the exercise beginning Sunday will bring together more than 12,000 troops from 20 nations to drill in Jordan, a key American ally hosting the annual event now in its fourth year.

Participants will train together in air, ground and maritime operations, focusing on skills from counterinsurgency to counterterrorism operations and cybersecurity, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said.

The exercise is an opportunity for the U.S. to underline its commitment to a region of vital importance and in particular to Jordan, which has been rattled by the civil war in neighboring Syria and the resulting flood of refugees. It also allows U.S. officers to form relationships with counterparts in Middle Eastern countries.

Tensions with Iran, the spread of Islamist militants across the area and the proliferation of chemical or conventional weapons are among other concerns facing the region. Jordan is concerned about any spill over of the Syrian war, where Islamic militants are increasingly at the forefront of the uprising against the secular regime of President Bashar Assad.

After last year's exercise, the Pentagon left 900 Americans behind in Jordan for training and deterrence as the fighting in Syria heated up. The detachment included a Patriot missile battery, an F-16 squadron and chemical weapons experts to train Jordanians in defending against an attack.

This year's version of the exercise is larger than last year's, which counted 8,000 participants. Eager Lion, which will run until June 8, takes place at installations across the kingdom and in international waters of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, the Pentagon said.

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JEROME D. JOHNSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Alfred R. Magleby, center, U.S. consul general to Naha, center, speaks with Col. John Merna, then-commanding officer of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and Capt. Dan Dusek, commanding officer of USS Bonhomme Richard as he tours the ship. Merna has since been forced to resign.

## Inquiry: III MEF commander to decide on additional action following a review

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Executive officer Lt. Col. G. Troy Roesti was appointed interim commander, the statement said. Wissler will make a final determination in regard to any additional action based upon a detailed review of the inquiry and climate survey.

Neither Wissler nor Merna was available to comment further Tuesday, according to a Marine spokesman. The inquiry and survey also were not available.

Merna was commissioned as an officer in 1990 following his graduation from Florida State University, according to his Marine

Corps biography. He served in Operation Desert Storm and rose quickly through the ranks, becoming a company commander by 1993. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-06.

The 31st MEU has been dubbed the "nation's force-in-readiness" in the region and includes about 2,200 Marines and sailors, according to a Marine Corps website.

They are widely regarded as the tip of the spear for everything from humanitarian assistance to amphibious assaults in the region.

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## MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Marinal housing area outside Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, is currently home to more than 2,000 Navy personnel and families.

# Navy considers closing family housing in Sicily

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy is considering ending its lease for family housing in Sicily, a cost-shifting measure that would push more personnel into privately owned apartments.

More than 2,000 Navy personnel and family members currently live in the Marinal housing area, located a short drive from Naval Air Station Sigonella. The Navy command overseeing bases across Europe and Africa must now decide whether to renew the lease for five more years beginning in July 2015.

The base announced in a town hall meeting last month that the Navy is considering not picking up the lease.

"It's really the decision of, is it more economical to send people out in town to find their own housing or to keep government-leased housing," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Johnson, a spokesman for the command, the command, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia. "And there's a business analysis right now where they're looking at all the factors."

Moving families off base would allow the command to shift expenses for housing personnel from its own budget to the Navy's larger account for overseas housing allowance.

The command has paid between \$12 million and \$16 million annually since 2005 for use of the land and for upkeep by the owner, Pizzarotti & Co., according to Johnson. He said a new lease would likely follow the same base rent, adjusted for inflation.

The Navy has closed other leased housing areas in Italy in recent years, although usually with the aim of forcing families into empty base housing. It closed

the Mineo housing area, another community near Sigonella, in 2011, citing the \$8.5 million annual price tag and the low occupancy in both Mineo and Marinal.

The command ended leases for several gated communities in the Naples area around the same time, pointing to high vacancy rates on the base support site. Last year, it began directly assigning all incoming military personnel in Naples to base housing.

Sigonella has had a direct-assignment policy since 2012, and the occupancy rate is currently around 95 percent, according to base spokesman Lt. Paul Newell.

Were Marinal to close, families would have to live in private housing on the economy, Johnson said. The region command is looking at the inventory of private rentals in the area before making a decision, he said.

The future of the Marinal property is another question, should the lease be allowed to end. The former Mineo housing area was leased by Pizzarotti & Co. to the Italian government as a housing center for asylum seekers, many of them refugees from the "Arab Spring" revolts in Tunisia and other North African countries.

It has since grown notorious in local media and among immigration advocates, who say the facility puts too many people in units, with little access to health care and little progress on their cases.

Johnson said the region command doesn't know what Pizzarotti & Co. would do with the property. An official with the firm declined to speak about the property when reached earlier this month.

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# \$69M keeps contracted security guards at Army gates in Europe

BY MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The Army has awarded a \$69 million contract to keep Pond Security manning the gates and patrolling its posts in Germany through at least the end of November.

The Army announced the award Tuesday, a little more than a week before Pond's current contract was set to expire and less than a week after U.S. Army Europe said it was training soldiers to take over the job.

According to a Pond official, the contract includes two option periods that could keep the company on the job through the end of January. The total value of the contract is \$69,679,398.02.

The deal — a short-term "bridge" contract — gives the

Army some breathing room as it continues to choose a vendor for what has been an elusive, long-term security contract.

Pond and Triple Canopy — both founded and run by U.S. military veterans — protested the Army's award in January of a five-year, \$322 million contract for security at all of its posts in Germany to local firm Sicherheit Nord. Such protests are not uncommon, especially with high-dollar contracts, according to the 409th Contracting Support Brigade, which has overseen the procurement process for the guard contract.

The Army agreed to take "corrective action" rather than fight the protest through litigation.

That corrective action allows companies that originally bid on the contract to revise their proposals, and could go on for months. No announcement has

been made on when the process might be completed.

Pond, which has lost roughly 6 percent of its workforce in recent months amid concerns about its long-term prospects, issued a statement Tuesday thanking military communities for their patience and understanding and its personnel for sticking with the company "despite the uncertainty posed by recent circumstances."

Pond had begun to divest itself of infrastructure and material after losing out to Sicherheit Nord, but is now "in the process of re-activating or acquiring new facilities as needed, updating service contracts, making new agreements with local living ranges, as well as replenishing some of our supply of equipment and vehicles," Chad Geier, the company's chief of staff, said in a statement.

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# Riders to rally over JPAC troubles

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Some veterans are using their motorcycles to make noise about deficiencies in the POW/MIA accounting system.

The Run for the Wall — an annual coast-to-coast motorcycle ride — started last week in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., and ends in the nation's capital Saturday. Organizers say its purpose is to help veterans heal and call attention to servicemembers left behind from America's past wars.

This year, the riders are carrying letters and pictures honoring Army Pfc. Lawrence Gordon, who was killed in France in World War II. French examiners identified his remains in February, after the U.S. Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command declined to perform the testing.

The riders will stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial before heading to the National World War II Memorial on Sunday to honor Gordon, whose nephew, also named Lawrence Gordon, will be on hand.

The group will cap its ride by participating in the "Rolling Thunder" display throughout the capital that could draw thousands of veteran motorcycle

enthusiasts.

"We're going to send people off to war, and we're willing to go, but all we ask is, bring us home," said Les Williams, a retired Marine Corps colonel and leader of one of the ride's "platoons."

"The more I learn about the story with Gordon, the more I think, 'What have we really become?'"

**Retired Marine Col. Les Williams**  
Run for the Wall participant

After a series of scandals at JPAC — ranging from mishandling of remains to fraudulent repatriation ceremonies — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered an overhaul of the agency in February. However, no concrete plans have been released yet, and families have criticized the efforts as lip service.

Gordon's nephew, along with filmmaker Jed Henry, who led efforts to identify Gordon's remains, will hold a POW-MIA Awareness Conference at the National Press Club on Friday. Henry, who has

been very vocal about his frustrations in trying to work with the POW/MIA accounting agencies, said they have been scrambling to save face and get involved since the identification was made.

"I don't think the POW/MIA mission is a mission at all," Henry said. "It's a public relations campaign to get young boys to join the service."

Gordon was killed Aug. 13, 1944, in an M8 armored car that was struck by a German anti-tank shell near Carrouges, France. His remains were first interred in an American cemetery as "unknown" even though his bloody wallet was sent home to his family and the man killed next to him was identified. The remains were later exhumed and reburied in a German cemetery.

Henry began looking into the case in 2011 while shooting a documentary about his grandfather, who was in Gordon's company.

Gordon's family has said he will be buried next to family in Saskatchewan, Canada, on the 70th anniversary of his death. Williams said he and about 75 other veterans plan on making the trip to see Gordon finally laid to rest.

"We're going to make a lot of noise," Williams said of the ride on the capital. "We want to wake up Congress."

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## MILITARY

## Flashpoint: Obama reassured allies of commitment during recent Asia trip

## FROM FRONT PAGE

This month, China floated a mobile oil-drilling rig in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone, setting off a standoff of flotillas in which Hanoi claims two of its ships were rammed. Violent riots in Vietnam have left dozens of ethnic Chinese injured or dead.

Just to the west, China recently began preparations for what the Philippines described as a possible military airstrip on a reef in the Spratly Islands, which both countries claim.

Meanwhile, Russia has intensified its presence in the Pacific—including long-range air patrols off the coast of California and near the U.S. territory of Guam—to gather intelligence and display its military might. The Japan Air Self Defense Force almost doubled its number of scrambles against Russian aircraft in the 12 months leading up to March compared with the previous year.

Meanwhile, North Korea has been ratcheting up its rhetoric amid what appear to be preparations for its fourth underground nuclear weapons test.

Experts say that flagging readiness—real or perceived—weakens America's "deterrent effect" on aggressors in the Pacific, even though President Barack Obama made reassurances to allies during his recent Asia trip that America's commitment remains strong to help if conflict breaks out.

Adding to the dilemma is the difficulty in objectively determining the state of military readiness, a process that one expert calls "operating in the blind."

In Congressional testimony, top-ranking military chiefs have warned that readiness is deteriorating, partly because of cuts from last year's sequester.

Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, testified before a Senate subcommittee in March that he was concerned about the readiness of "follow-on forces" that would be required should the peninsula enter crisis.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. John Amos told the same committee last fall that budget cuts leave "fewer forces, arriving less trained, arriving later in the fight."

"We've had a stream of testimony from the different service chiefs and other key general and



Marine Cpl. Jared M. Cantu uses an improvised model to explain his plan of attack during urban operations training on May 7 at the Central Training Area in Okinawa, Japan. Continuous training keeps troops ready for potential conflict in the Pacific, but cuts in readiness funding could be affecting America's influence in the region.



See an interactive map highlighting Pacific hot spots [stripes.com/go/flashpoints](http://stripes.com/go/flashpoints)

flag officers this spring where they have bemoaned the state of military forces," said Dakota Wood, a defense expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington.

This ultimately reduces military options in the Pacific, which does not go unnoticed by China and Russia, he said.

"When it comes to China, we are seeing increasing aggressiveness in trying to push forward their territorial claims in

the East and South China Seas," he said. "China is likely viewing this as a window of opportunity to aggressively press its claims in these waters, and the U.S. is not well postured to come to the assistance of friends and allies in the region."

"There's this deterrent value in being strongly forward, being strongly postured and having the perception that not only are your forces ready for action, but that the government in the U.S. is willing to press that case if it comes to it."

Reduced readiness cuts two ways, said Todd Harrison, a defense expert with the nonpartisan Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

"I think this reduction in readiness that we're looking at will reduce our confidence in the ability of our military to intervene successfully if called upon," he said. "That may weaken the deterrent effect on potential adversaries, but it could also create a situation where we self-deter."

Confrontations such as those over the oil rig in Vietnamese waters and islands near the Philip-

pines aren't the kind that would require deep follow-on forces from the U.S., even it did intervene, said Anthony Cordesman, a defense expert at the bipartisan Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"You're not going to go to general war over an EEZ or a reef somewhere in the Pacific," he said.

It's possible those "limited contingencies" could escalate to levels no one anticipated, Cordesman said, but the U.S. has "an awful lot of forces that limit that escalation."

And those examples shouldn't be equated with a potential outbreak of hostilities on the Korean peninsula because the U.S. is prepared and willing to match escalation there, he said.

Still, Wood said this "pattern of conduct" by China and Russia should be looked at as "small bites of an apple," which over time will consume it.

"So each one of these little actions is below the threshold that would invite a large-scale conventional military response," he said. "But they're willing and

able to take these small bites because they know the U.S., by this series of incidents, is unwilling to press the case."

Cordesman said he thinks a stronger military pushback by the U.S. could lead to unintended escalation.

"The problem is that the United States responding—even if it solves one small, short-term problem—may lead to the other side responding in ways that again produce a steady pattern of escalation," he said.

Judging by the testimony of the Joint Chiefs of Staff earlier this month during a Senate hearing on the Pentagon's proposal to reduce compensation and benefits for troops, the services aren't hankering for a greater show of force in the Pacific. If Congress doesn't approve those compensation cuts, the Air Force will consider cutting \$8.1 billion from readiness, modernization and infrastructure accounts over the next five years, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III told a Senate committee.

"We'll take significant cuts to flying hours and weapons system sustainment accounts, reduce precision munitions buys and lower funding for training ranges, digging our readiness hole even deeper," Welsh said.

Harrison said the current debate highlights the need for the Pentagon to develop actual "output" measurements of readiness. Currently it provides Congress with "inputs," such as the number of hours flown or level of maintenance of equipment, but that leaves lawmakers "operating in the blind," Harrison said.

He proposes the Defense Department begin reporting actual performance in training and exercises as a basis for judging readiness.

"The department tests like this already," he said. "Fighter pilots are tested on a fairly regular basis on doing different types of bombing missions, doing air-to-air combat, and they're already being scored."

"It's just a matter of collecting, aggregating and tracking that information from individual and unit level all the way up to joint force level. And right now they're not doing that."

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## MILITARY

# Defense bill irks White House

By DONNA CASSATA  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is escalating an election-year dispute with Congress over military spending as lawmakers bucked the Pentagon and spared favorite ships and aircraft despite diminishing budgets.

One day after a veto threat, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough met privately with House Democrats on Tuesday and criticized the \$601 billion defense authorization bill over the changes as the Defense Department deals with smaller budgets.

The House was scheduled to begin three days of debate Tuesday on the policy bill that saves the A-10 Warthog aircraft that provides close air support, steers millions to refuel an aircraft carrier and upgrades tanks while rejecting Pentagon pleas to close unnecessary military bases and increase out-of-pocket costs for housing and health care for personnel and their families.

"Denis said 'if there's no bill, that's fine. We can live with that,'" Rep. John Yarnouth, D-Ky., told reporters as he emerged from the closed-door meeting.

Congress has passed the bill that authorizes spending and sets policy for 52 years straight as it remains one of the most popular, bipartisan measures. A separate spending bill provides the money for the Defense Department, and the military could operate with that alone.

Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., said the House bill is just a first step in a six-month process as the Senate must craft its version of the legislation. The two bills would then be reconciled, with input from the administration.

In its statement on Monday, the White House complained that the House bill increases "the risk to the department's ability to implement the president's defense strategy, contributing to a military that will be less capable of responding effectively to future challenges. In addition, the bill's continuation of unwarranted restrictions regarding detainees held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, undermines our national security."

The House Armed Services Committee approved the bill unanimously on May 8 on a vote of 41-0. The House is expected to complete work on the bill by week's end.



STEPHANIE PICKETT/Courtesy of the Department of Defense

## Cookout for a cause

Yeoman 1st Class Eric Pickett, left-center, and Information Systems Technician 1st Class Korey Kilgore serve up barbecue Sunday for residents of Minami Sanriku, Japan. Sailors traveled from Naval Air Facility Misawa to host the event for residents still affected by the March 11, 2011, tsunami.

## Marine falls from Osprey in NC

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

A search is underway in North Carolina for a Marine crewmember who fell from an MV-22B Osprey aircraft Monday night during a training flight, Marine officials said.

The incident occurred some 45 miles west of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., about 6:30 p.m., Marine officials said in a statement Tuesday. How and why the crewmember fell is un-

known and under investigation, officials said.

They declined to identify the Marine, from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, because of privacy regulations.

"While the cause of the mishap is under investigation, our first priority is to locate our missing comrade," Marine officials said in the statement. "We ask that everyone keeps this Marine in their prayers and that you do nothing to hinder the efforts of the authorities involved in the search."

The Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft is unique, as it functions as both a helicopter and an airplane. The aircraft is controversial because of several high-profile crashes early in its history.

In recent years it has been a flash point for protests on the Japanese island of Okinawa where some are based even though Marine Corps Osprey pilots often laud the aircraft for its toughness and versatility.

burke.matt@stripes.com

## US makes case for Guam buildup

The Associated Press

HAGATNA, Guam — The relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, will boost Guam's revenue by at least \$37 million a year, defense officials say.

That's enough to more than double the size of Guam's police force, the Pacific Daily News reported.

The money will come from income taxes paid by 5,000 Marines who will move to Guam, the Joint Guam Program Office said. The federal government remits servicemember income taxes to the territory in a lump sum each year.

Maj. Darren Alvarez, deputy director of Joint Guam Program Office-Forward, said this income tax revenue will peak at \$62 million in 2021.

The grass-roots organization

We Are Guahan said the military isn't paying to help Guam cope with the effects of the buildup.

Attorney Leevin Camacho, of We Are Guahan, said income tax revenue from the Marines shouldn't be seen as mitigation for the social impacts.

If the buildup adversely impacts public schools, the local firefighting force, the local hospital and other social service functions or entities, the Defense Department should pay for the impact of the buildup on those specific service providers, Camacho said.

Gov. Eddie Calvo's office said it isn't accurate to say the Defense Department pays nothing for the social impacts of the buildup.

The Port Authority of Guam in 2010 received \$50 million from the Defense Department, and it has started to use the money to upgrade its facilities to accommo-

date increased cargo.

Congress also has authorized \$106 million for Guam Waterworks Authority, mostly for wastewater plant upgrades.

The military is paying for some road improvements. There also is \$12 million for a cultural repository and \$13 million for a public health lab.

## IG report: Contractor overbilled by \$100M

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Northrop Grumman improperly charged the U.S. government more than \$100 million in "questionable" costs on a contract, according to a Defense Department inspector general's report.

The report found that from October 2007 through March 2013, the major defense contractor "did not properly charge labor rates" for a counter-narcoterrorism contract, and that the Army agency in charge of the contract did not ensure that the people performing the work had the necessary qualifications. The agency also did not review invoices for millions of dollars of overtime, the report said.

The IG found \$217 million in "potentially excessive payments" for overtime, including one employee who billed \$176,900 for 1,208 hours in a 12-day period. That caught investigators' attention, since the employee was billing for more than 100 hours a day.

The IG found that out of the charges submitted over nearly six years for 460 DynCorp employees working for Northrop Grumman, 360 did not meet the specified labor requirements, leading to \$91.4 million in questionable costs.

In one case, a program manager who billed \$,729 hours over a year and a half, totaling \$1.2 million, did not have a bachelor's degree, which was a requirement of the position. Another employee billed 16,270 hours worth \$2 million over five years but was qualified for only 161 hours of work.

Pentagon investigators also said that \$10 million was spent on 33 employees who may not have been qualified. DynCorp told the IG that it couldn't determine the employees' qualifications "because some personnel files were archived and extremely difficult to obtain."

The report, marked "for official use only," was obtained by the Project on Government Oversight, which published it on its website Tuesday. It was first reported on last week by Bloomberg News.

DynCorp was a Northrop subcontractor, supplying spare parts, maintenance and training for the Afghan Defense Ministry, the Afghan Army Air Corps and the Afghanistan Interior Ministry's Counter-Narcotics Air Squadron.

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## UKRAINE UNREST

# Ukraine tycoon: Separatists are wrecking east

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV AND  
ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO  
The Associated Press

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine — Pro-Russia separatists fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine faced a surge of local anger Tuesday and a new challenge from the country's richest man, who demanded an end to their rebellion.

Metals tycoon Rinat Akhmetov, riding a wave of public dismay with the fighting, issued a strong call against the mutiny in the east, which he described as a "fight against the citizens of our region" that has devastated Ukraine's industrial heartland.

"Is looting in cities and taking peaceful citizens hostage a fight for the happiness of our region? No, it is not!" Akhmetov said in a video statement.

The tycoon vowed to challenge the insurgents who declared independence last week in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, an area of 6.5 million people.

"No one will frighten us, including those calling themselves a Donetsk People's Republic," he said.

Akhmetov had initially taken a noncommittal stance as the mutiny engulfed the east, drawing criticism from the authorities in Kiev. But last week, his company organized citizen patrols of steelworkers who worked alongside police in the Black Sea port of Mariupol to improve security. The move forced insurgents to vacate the government buildings they had seized in the key southeastern city.

The tycoon urged all workers in eastern Ukraine to hold peaceful protests at their companies by blowing sirens Tuesday "in support of peace and against bloodshed." He suggested they keep

up those protests in the coming days.

It was unclear if his call had a broad following.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov quickly hailed Akhmetov's move, saying on Facebook that "the people's power and energy will sweep the terrorist scum away better than any counter-terrorist operation."

One of the leaders of rebels in Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, retaliated Tuesday by threatening to nationalize Akhmetov's assets over his refusal to pay taxes to the Donetsk People's Republic. "Is looting in cities and taking peaceful citizens hostage a fight for the happiness of our region? No, it is not!"

Rinat Akhmetov Ukraine's richest man has scathingly criticized the

new Ukrainian authorities — who came to power in February after a pro-Russia president fled — for using the military against the rebellion.

Ukraine is holding a presidential election on Sunday, which the government in Kiev hopes will unite the country behind a new leader.

Separatists exchanged fire again Tuesday with government forces on the outskirts of the eastern city of Sloviansk — the epicenter of the rebellion against the government — but this time anger at the fighting appeared to be growing.

Yekaterina Len, 61, a resident whose house was hit by a mor-



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

Vyacheslav Ponomarev, left, the self-proclaimed mayor of Sloviansk, Ukraine, shakes hands with a woman during his meeting with local citizens whose homes were ruined in shelling.

tar shell, burst into tears as she looked at the wreckage. She survived the shelling by spending the night with neighbors.

She and other residents sounded exasperated and angry with both warring sides. Some said many houses had been hit as rebels move around the area, shoot at government troops and draw retaliatory fire.

"They must stop with this banditry so that there can be peace!" said resident Lina Sidorenko. "How much longer can this go on? We had a united country, and now look what's happened."

Vyacheslav Ponomarev, the separatist leader in Sloviansk, later heard an earful as he met with about 200 residents. Many angrily shouted demands at him to end hostilities.

Wearing a pistol on his belt and flanked by a bodyguard toting a Kalashnikov rifle, Ponomarev yelled back at the crowd, saying he will compensate those whose houses were damaged.

"Please, I implore you, do not panic!" he shouted. "If you do, you are playing into the hands of our enemies."

He also lashed out at those in the crowd who blamed the insurgents for putting civilians at risk.

"Why are you shouting at me?" he yelled. "You only care about your own matters!"

Russia's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said its units were dismantling their camps along the border with Ukraine and pre-

paring to leave for their home bases.

A day after President Vladimir Putin issued a pullout order in an apparent bid to ease tensions with the West, the ministry said the army units in the Bryansk, Belgorod and Rostov regions bordering Ukraine were getting ready to leave.

NATO, which estimates that Russia has 40,000 troops along the border with Ukraine, said it was watching the situation closely but could not yet confirm a change.

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu on Tuesday challenged the Russians "to prove that they are doing what they are saying."

The Russian Defense Ministry said it would take time for troops to dismantle their camps and load equipment on trucks for a march to railway stations. It didn't say how many troops were being pulled out or how long it would take.

## Ukraine navy in crisis after Crimea loss

BY TIM SULLIVAN  
The Associated Press

ODESSA, Ukraine — Ukraine's navy is in Odessa's harbor, though it can be hard to spot.

It's tucked behind a collection of storage tanks and overshadowed by immense cargo vessels docked nearby. There are a couple dozen boats, few much larger than a decent-sized yacht and many in desperate need of repair. The government is begging the public to help pay their bills.

This is what's left of Ukraine's fleet since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula two months ago, taking with it the navy's key base and most of its ships.

"Times are not the best for the fleet now," said Capt. Oleh Chuk-buk, spokesman for Ukraine's naval command.

The reality is far worse. Separatist unrest is battering eastern Ukraine, breakaway leaders have vowed to disrupt Sunday's presidential elections and Crimea has been annexed by Russia.

Ukraine's military is facing its worst crisis ever with a navy that has lost two-thirds of its vessels, an army desperate for basic equipment and a defense ministry that has taken to hustling 50-cent donations that people can make with mobile phone text messages. It has raised more than \$1 million so far that way — enough to buy one interceptor missile on a U.S. Navy warship — but military officials are thrilled.

"We'll use the money to buy the things we lack, like bulletproof helmets and medical supplies," said Bogdan Buta, Ukraine's deputy defense minister.

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## NATION

# Cyber case further strains relations between US, China

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The indictment of five Chinese military officials on cyberespionage charges will intensify friction between Beijing and Washington that has been growing as China gets bolder in asserting its territorial claims in disputed seas in East Asia.

That doesn't mean there will be a fracture in the U.S.-China relationship, which remains vital for both of the world powers, but it raises major doubts about the ability of U.S. and China to manage their differences.

"This adds to the mounting list of hugely problematic issues between the U.S. and China," said Jonathan Pollack, a specialist on East Asian politics and security at the Brookings Institution think tank. "Barring a level of candor and disclosure from China

on some of these issues that we haven't seen to date, it seems to me we're heading for very troubled waters."

China reacted swiftly to the indictment that accuses the military officials of hacking big-name American makers of nuclear and solar technology. It rejected the allegations as "ungrounded and absurd" and denied its military or government personnel had ever participated in cyberheft of trade secrets. On Tuesday, China warned the United States was jeopardizing military ties and demanded Washington withdraw the indictment.

China also pulled out of working discussions on cybersecurity — an issue that loomed large when President Barack Obama met last June with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

That summit, held in California, was intended to set a positive

tone for the relationship — what Beijing likes to call a "new model of great power relations." But the cracks in that model are already showing.

The two governments have tried, with limited success, to find common cause in resisting North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. They made strides last year toward negotiating a bilateral investment treaty that would deepen an economic relationship in which two-way trade already exceeds \$560 billion.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the U.S. expects China to understand that the indictment relates to law enforcement, and that the two nations can still have a "constructive and productive relationship." She said she expected a high-level U.S.-China security and economic dialogue to go ahead as planned in about two months.



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei gestures during a daily briefing Tuesday.

## GM recalls 2.4 million more vehicles in the US

DETROIT — General Motors is recalling 2.4 million vehicles in the U.S. as part of a broader effort to resolve outstanding safety issues more quickly.

The latest action brings to 13.6 million the number of vehicles GM has recalled this year, a new record for the automaker.

The recalls announced Tuesday include 1.3 million older-model crossovers with defective front seat belts and 1 million sedans with a shift cable that can wear out. GM is also recalling 1,400 new Cadillac Escalade SUVs with faulty air bags.

## Dozens wed after Ore. gay marriage ruling

PORTLAND, Ore. — Dozens of gay and lesbian couples are now legally married in Oregon after a judge invalidated the state's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. Jubilant couples began applying for marriage licenses immediately after U.S. District Judge Michael McShane issued his ruling Monday, and many were married hours later. In Portland, Multnomah County issued more than 70 licenses, according to the gay rights group Oregon United for Marriage.

## London cleric convicted in NYC terrorism trial

NEW YORK — An Egyptian Islamic preacher whose fiery sermons before and after 9/11 attracted extremists to his London mosque was convicted Monday in a trial the prosecutor said should provide justice for the victims of a kidnapping in Yemen more than a decade ago. The cleric, Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, 56, was found guilty just weeks after an al-Qaida spokesman was convicted.

Mustafa was accused of providing material support to terrorist organizations by enabling hostage takers in the Yemen kidnapping to speak on a satellite phone, by sending men to establish an al-Qaida training camp in Oregon, and by sending at least one man to training camps in Afghanistan.

From The Associated Press

# CIA: Vaccination programs won't be used as cover

By STEPHEN BRAUN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top White House official has pledged that the CIA will no longer use vaccination programs as cover for spying operations.

The agency used the ruse in targeting Osama bin Laden before the U.S. raid that killed him in 2011.

Lisa Monaco, President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, wrote to the deans of 13 prominent public health schools last week saying the CIA has agreed it would no longer use vaccination programs or workers for intelligence purposes. The

agency also agreed not to use genetic materials obtained through such programs.

A Pakistani doctor, Shakil Afridi, offered a program of hepatitis vaccinations in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad as cover for his CIA-backed effort to obtain DNA samples from children at a compound where bin Laden was later killed during a 2011 raid by U.S. Navy SEALs. Afridi was convicted and sentenced by a Pakistani court to 33 years in prison for treason. The sentence was later overturned, and Afridi faces a retrial.

In 2012, the United Nations suspended a polio vaccination effort in Pakistan after gunmen killed

several health workers. Taliban militants accused health workers of acting as spies for the U.S.

The health school deans were among a group of medical authorities who publicly criticized the CIA's use of the vaccination program after it was disclosed by media accounts and Pakistan's arrest of Afridi as a CIA operative.

In her May 16 letter to the health school deans, Monaco said the U.S. "strongly supports the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and efforts to end the spread of the polio virus forever."

She added that CIA Director John Brennan said in August 2013 that the agency would "make no operational use of vaccination

programs, which includes vaccination workers." Also saying no DNA or genetic material from such programs would be used, Monaco said the CIA policy "applied worldwide and to U.S. and non-U.S. persons alike."

CIA spokesman Dean Boyd said Brennan "took seriously the concerns raised by the public health community, examined them closely and took decisive action."

Monaco's letter and the CIA statement did not acknowledge any error in the decision to use the Pakistan vaccine program as a spying cover. The letter was first disclosed in a report by Yahoo News.



## Who Won?

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Single dad Danny Goodman finds himself unable to afford the private school his teenage daughter adores and accepts a loan that brings the DEA into his life and leads to an impossible choice: indictment for accepting drug money or an unthinkable treacherous undercover assignment.

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## WORLD

## Italian migrant rescue includes 100 children

MILAN — The Italian Navy rescued nearly 500 migrants, including 100 children, in an all-night operation.

The Navy said in a news release that the migrants were rescued Tuesday from two boats tied together because one motor failed.

The operation off the Sicilian coast was complicated by rough seas, and the Navy first dropped life preservers into the boats before moving the migrants onto a Navy vessel. Most were from Syria, Egypt and Bangladesh.

Save the Children has expressed concern about the large number of unaccompanied minors arriving in the latest wave of migrants fleeing conflict and poverty, usually aboard unseaworthy boats.

## EU accuses 3 banks of manipulating prices

AMSTERDAM — The European Union's top competition regulator has accused JPMorgan, HSBC and Credit Agricole of colluding to manipulate the price of financial products linked to interest rates.

The European Commission's Joaquin Almunia said Tuesday the banks will now have a chance to respond to his preliminary findings. If the commission ultimately concludes they have broken the law, it can impose a maximum fine of up to 10 percent of their annual turnover.

In December 2013, the commission levied fines totaling \$1.42 billion on Barclays, Deutsche Bank, RBS and Societe Generale as part of the same case, which covers financial derivatives linked to a benchmark interest rate called Euribor in the period 2005-08.

## African warlord Kony makes son his deputy

KAMPALA, Uganda — Uganda's military said fugitive warlord Joseph Kony has handed over command of his group to his son, an elevation that further marginalizes senior commanders who may threaten Kony's fading authority.

Salim Saleh was born in the 1990s and has spent all his life in the bush, Uganda military spokesman Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda said Saleh is "as hard as his father."

Kony, whose brutal group abducts children, is the subject of an international manhunt involving U.S. forces in parts of Central Africa.

## Man with knife injures 8 students in China

BEIJING — A Chinese man with a kitchen knife attacked first- and second-graders at a school in central China on Tuesday, injuring eight children, local authorities said.

The government of Macheng city in Hubei province said the man, identified as Chen Zuihang, 35, was detained following the attack. It said on its website that police were investigating the motive.

The statement said the injured students were being treated at a hospital.

From The Associated Press

## Nigerian hunters want to find girls

By HARUNA UMAR  
AND MICHELLE FAUL  
The Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — Traditional hunters armed with homemade guns, poisoned spears and amulets have gathered in hundreds, eager to use their skills and what they believe to be supernatural powers to help find nearly 300 schoolgirls abducted by Islamic extremists.

Some 500 hunters, some as young as 18 and some in their 80s, say they have been specially selected by their peers for their spiritual hunting skills and have been waiting for two weeks in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital and the birthplace of Boko Haram, to get backing from the military and get moving.

With Nigeria's military accused by many citizens of not doing enough to rescue the girls, the hunters demonstrated their skills to an Associated Press reporter on Sunday. Cow horn trumpets echoed eerie war cries from the screaming and chanting men as they twirled knives and swords with dexterity, occasionally stabbing and cutting themselves with no apparent harm. The hunters claimed their magic charms prevented any blood from being drawn.



HARUNA UMAR/AP

Armed hunters gather before setting out to search for about 300 abducted schoolgirls in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

They also trust amulets of herbs and other substances wrapped in leather pouches, as well as cowrie shells, animal teeth and leather bracelets to protect them from bullets.

The appearance of the hunters from three northeastern states underscores how deeply the April 15 mass kidnapping — and the government's apparent lack of action — has affected Nigerian society. It has spawned demonstrations and a tidal wave of commentary in media, including on social sites like Twitter and Facebook.

A spokesman for the hunters stopped short of actually criticizing the military.

"We're not saying we are better than the soldiers, but we know the bush better than the soldiers," said Sarkin Baka. The hunters said they gathered here at the suggestion of a state legislator.

A military spokesman did not immediately respond to an emailed question from the AP on whether it would take advantage of the hunters' local knowledge.

In contrast to the age-old stalking and tracking skills offered

by the hunters, U.S. aircraft and camera-carrying drones are searching for the girls. Military teams from America, Britain, France, Spain and Israel with expertise in surveillance, intelligence gathering, counterterrorism and hostage negotiation are also present.

Police say more than 300 girls and young women were kidnapped from a boarding school in the remote northeastern town of Chibok, which is in Borno state about 80 miles south of Maiduguri, on April 15. A total of 53 escaped and an estimated 276 remain in captivity, according to the police.

They were driven into the nearby Sambisa Forest, according to witnesses. Unverified reports from two federal senators from the region and Chibok residents quoting villagers in the forest and elsewhere indicated some of the girls may have been forced to marry their abductors and some may have been taken across the border into Cameroon.

Nigeria's military insists that it is diligently searching for the girls and says near-daily aerial bombardments of the forest that began in mid-January were stopped to avoid accidentally hitting the girls.

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## WORLD



AP

Floodwaters cover the town of Obrenovac, some 18 miles southwest of Belgrade, Serbia, on Monday. The Balkans are struggling with the consequences of the worst flooding in southeastern Europe in more than a century.

# US military to help flood-ravaged Balkans

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will join an international relief effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where floods have wreaked warlike levels of destruction, the Pentagon announced Monday.

One million people in the country — 25 percent of the population — have been cut off from clean water supplies and 500,000 have fled their homes, as record rainfall has pounded the region

in recent days. Floods and landslides have killed dozens, and obliterated farms and buildings, according to news reports.

"The physical destruction is not less than the destruction caused by the war," in the 1990s, Bosnian Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija told a news conference, according to reports.

From 1992 to 1995, an estimated 100,000 people were killed in the former Yugoslavia as the country disintegrated amid ethnic turmoil.

The Defense Department will

provide more than 4,500 relief items, including:

- Water purification units and water cans
- Kitchen equipment
- Sandbags and shovels
- Cots, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, and blankets
- Wet-weather gear and clothing

The relief supplies are being shipped from Camp Darby in Livorno, Italy, and are expected to begin arriving in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Tuesday, accord-

ing to DOD.

Neighboring Serbia has also been hard-hit by the torrential rain, and more than a dozen people there have been killed. Nearly 100,000 have lost power and more than 25,000 have been evacuated, according to reports.

"These are the kind of waters not seen in 1,000 years," Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said during a televised cabinet meeting, according to news reports.

The U.S. will join Russia, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Britain, Aus-

tria, and Macedonia in providing international assistance to the region.

In addition to the weather itself, people in the region are now threatened by displaced or unmarked land mines. Warning signs marking the 9,000 known minefields in the area were washed away by the floods. There were believed to be about 100,000 land mines buried in the region before the storms hit, according to reports.

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## 'Tons' of drowned livestock pose new threat to region

By JOVANA GEC and AIDA CERKEZ  
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — A new calamity emerged Tuesday in the flood-hit Balkans even as emergency workers battled overflowing rivers and evacuated thousands: thousands of drowned livestock were posing a health hazard.

With the rainfall stopping and temperatures rising, the withdrawing floodwaters revealed a harrowing sight: thousands of dead cows, pigs, sheep, dogs and other animals that were left behind after their panicked owners fled rapidly advancing torrents.

"There are tons of dead animals that we must dispose of," Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic told a government meeting Tuesday.

One farm near the northern Bosnian town of Samac reported losing 450 of its 500 cows.

The record flooding in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia in the past week has led to at least 40 deaths: 20 in Serbia, 18 in Bosnia and two in Croatia. Authorities say the

death toll still could go higher.

Bosnia declared Tuesday a day of mourning while Serbia said it would hold three days of mourning for flood victims from Wednesday to Friday.

Witnesses say the waters in some areas rose within hours, racing into yards and homes without warning and flooding entire towns. In many cases, farmers did not have time to unleash their livestock or let them out of barns to try to swim to safety. Only some were pulled out in time.

Authorities in Bosnia have asked for international help to deal with the animal carcass problem, while governments in both Serbia and Bosnia have set up special phone lines for people to reach sanitary teams to pick up dead animals.

Serbian state television on Tuesday showed army teams spreading out to decontaminate and disinfect flooded areas to prevent possible diseases.

Residents also have been given special sanitary instructions: they are not to return to their homes before disinfection and not to eat any food from flooded gardens, orchards or barns.



AMEL EMBIC/AP

A cow killed in recent flooding is towed away from a farm near the Bosnian town of Bosanski Samac, 124 miles north of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, on Tuesday.

"Dead animals are a special problem. Those have to be removed and destroyed properly or at least dug deep into the ground and covered with calcium oxide," said Bosnia's chief epidemiologist, Dr. Zeljko Ler.

Ler warned that acute stomach ailments and other diseases — including hepatitis and typhoid — often occur in the aftermath of the flooding.

"We are warning the population to drink only boiled or bottled water," he said.

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# OPINION

## Israel peace talks fail, so now what?

By URI DROMI

“Right now, the peace talks are based on only one thing — only on peace talks. It makes no sense at this point to talk about the most contractible issue. It's Jerusalem or bust, or right of return or bust. That has led to failure and is likely to lead to failure again.”

So said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, except that he said it not now, when the last round of talks between Israelis and Palestinians came to a dead end once again, but back in 2008, when then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas were close to a deal. Needless to say, there was no deal.

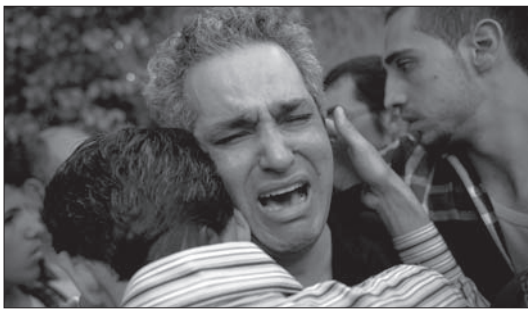
Even then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was impressed by Olmert's willingness to acquiesce to the Palestinian demands. In her memoirs, published in 2011, she recalled her incredulity: “Am I really hearing this? I wondered. Is the Israeli prime minister saying that he'll deliver Jerusalem and put an international body in charge of the Holy sites? Concentrate. Write this down. No, don't write it down. What if it leaks? It can't leak; it's just the two of us.”

Leak or no leak, Mahmoud Abbas, like Yasser Arafat before him, wouldn't take yes for an answer. Netanyahu's 2008 observation was right, except for the wrong reason: Whether you talk about Jerusalem and the refugees' right of return or whether you don't, peace talks seem to always lead to nothing.

Netanyahu, now on a state visit to Japan, seems not to be drawn into such a fatalistic conclusion. In an interview with the Maimichi Shimbun newspaper, he expressed his concerns about the failure of the talks with the Palestinians. “The status quo is not a good idea because I don't want a binational state,” he said.

Indeed, according to Haaretz newspaper, Netanyahu, two weeks ago in a cabinet meeting, asked his ministers to come up with new ideas on what steps Israel might take in the new situation created by the end of negotiations and by the recent reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas.

I'm not sure that our government ministers are the most creative people, and if they are, some of their ideas, like annexing the West Bank and boosting settlements there, are a recipe for their disaster.



NASSER NASSER/AP

Palestinian Seyam Nuwara, center, father of Nadim Nuwara, 17, who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers during clashes near the Israeli army base of Of, cries outside the morgue of the Ramallah hospital in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday.

In that case, our prime minister should have extended his request for new ideas to all Israeli citizens and perhaps appealed to anyone in the world to email him all the brilliant ideas about how to make peace in this troublesome area.

One suggestion I'm sure he's heard already allegedly came from a frustrated American senator: “Why can't those Arabs and Jews just sit down and like good Christians settle their differences?”

More seriously, if Netanyahu had asked to pick my brain on this, I would have suggested that Israel pull back unilaterally to borders it insists on keeping, leave the IDF deployed in the Jordan Valley and wait for the Palestinians to come to their senses and negotiate in good faith.

I don't know if Netanyahu would appreciate advice from a former aide. Usually, people who have worked for him were either shown the door or left banging it, swearing never to look back. One of them is Uri Arad, Netanyahu's former national security adviser and a former senior officer of the Mossad.

When I discussed with him last week that idea of a unilateral withdrawal, he agreed, saying he didn't believe it was the Palestin-

ians' intention to reach an agreement in the first place, hoping that they will always gain more as time passes, without making any compromises.

But then Arad added an important improvement on my idea: He should not be doing it entirely unilaterally, he said.

We should coordinate it with the Quartet.

This group, consisting of the United States, United Nations, Russia and the European Union, established to promote peace in the Middle East, will surely back Israel if it chooses to ease its grip on the Palestinians, and even reward it by thwarting any anti-Israeli international moves.

If, however, Netanyahu doesn't trust anyone (and he doesn't), then as a last resort, he can turn to what he himself said in the same statement in 2008:

“We must weave an economic peace alongside a political process. That means that we have to strengthen the moderate parts of the Palestinian economy by handing rapid growth in those areas, rapid economic growth that gives a stake for peace for the ordinary Palestinians.”

Uri Dromi writes about Israeli affairs for The Miami Herald.

## Treating kid's squabbles with a gentler touch

By EVAN BERNICK

When the officers came to her home, the 9-year-old girl was still wet from running through the neighborhood sprinkler. She wore flip-flops, a pink towel and a swimsuit. The officers took her away wearing handcuffs.

Her mother's response said it all: “She's just a child.”

Yes, you read that correctly: Police officers in Portland, Ore., handcuffed a 9-year-old girl and took her to the station in a police car. They photographed and fingerprinted her and detained her for nearly an hour before her mother arrived. Her “crime”? Getting in a fight with another kid — a fight that took place nearly a week beforehand and ended with apologies on all sides.

According to The Oregonian newspaper, this all started with a scuffle on a basketball court at the Boys & Girls Club in Portland's New Columbia neighborhood. Witnesses told police the 9-year-old girl got in the middle of a dispute between two other girls who had been arguing because one tattled on the other for drawing on a desk. The 9-year-old later ended up in a fistfight with one of the other girls outside the club. Both girls apolo-

gized to each other. The 9-year-old was sent home and suspended from the club for one week.

Done and done, right? Wrong. After receiving a call from the mother of the other girl involved in the fight, police arrived at the 9-year-old's home to investigate. Finding the 9-year-old's statements “inconsistent” with witness reports, the officers took her into custody, accusing her of fourth-degree assault.

What were these officers thinking? Departmental policy mandates that juveniles taken into custody for any Class A misdemeanor “shall” be fingerprinted and photographed at the forensics division. Police consider those under age 18 to be juveniles, and fourth-degree assault is a Class A misdemeanor.

Assault is a serious crime. But the fact of the matter is that kids fight, even though they shouldn't. Usually, no one gets hurt and no lasting harm is done. According to reports, this wasn't an exception.

Indeed, the experience of the arrest seems to have caused more lasting harm than anything else. One year later, the 9-year-old has transferred to another school

because of teasing about the incident and has been in counseling since last June. “She is a different child,” said her mother, LaToya Harris.

Harris is determined to ensure nothing similar happens again in Portland. When she filed a complaint with the police department, the Independent Police Review Division found the officers violated no departmental policies.

Undeterred, she told her story to the Citizen Review Committee, which hears complaints of alleged officer misconduct against Portland police. Now, concerned citizens are demanding changes in departmental policy.

Kids shouldn't be cuffed and taken to the station every time little fists fly. Years ago, handcuffing a 9-year-old after an incident like this would have been unthinkable — everyone would have forgotten about it in a week. We look forward to seeing changes in departmental policy that give officers more discretion to treat squabbles between kids with the gentle touch they require.

Evan Bernick is a visiting legal fellow in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

## OPINION

## Sam's kiss: A case for unlearning our prejudices

BY JOHN M. CRISP

When Michael Sam became the first openly gay football player to be drafted into the NFL, President Barack Obama congratulated him, the St. Louis Rams, and the NFL "for taking an important step forward today in our nation's journey." And many enlightened citizens felt good about our continued progress toward equal treatment for all.

But when Sam, in his joy at finally being drafted in the seventh round, kissed his boyfriend, Vito Cammisano, on the lips on ESPN, some reactions were predictable.

A few current and former football players commented disapprovingly. Miami Dolphins safety Don Jones said "OMG" and called it "horrible." And beyond the NFL, documentary film director Patrick Dollard said, "Any straight person who says (the kiss) doesn't look disgusting can't pass a lie detector test saying it. Prove me wrong."

One of Dollard's Twitter followers said, "That was extremely disgusting. I possibly just threw up in my mouth a little."

Our nation's movement toward full, non-discriminatory equality in all matters for all citizens, including gays, has been impressive. Mostly our progress is glacial, but sometimes it leaps forward with considerable energy, as indicated by recent changing attitudes toward same-sex marriage in a number of states. Sam's freedom to be open about his sexuality in the macho world of pro football is a significant milestone.

But we shouldn't be satisfied with getting almost to the goal. Why shouldn't Sam be able to express his emotions just as the other drafted players did when they kissed their wives and girlfriends on national TV?

We're often a lot better at embracing lofty principles and ordinary practices



St. Louis Rams seventh-round draft pick Michael Sam speaks during a news conference at the NFL football team's practice facility in St. Louis on May 13. The NFL's first openly gay player stirred controversy when he kissed his boyfriend on camera after learning he had been drafted.

than we are at accepting, or even acknowledging, their implications. For example, blacks were playing professional baseball long before they were treated as ordinary citizens at lunch counters and hotels across the nation.

We agree that blacks and whites are equal in every respect before the law, but some of us still have trouble with the down-to-earth circumstance of black students

— too many of them, at least — in the same classroom with our own children.

We're hearty meat-eaters, but we're oblivious to the fact that meat-eating depends on considerable suffering and bloodletting. Our ongoing infatuation with hydrocarbons depends on denying the consequences for the climate.

There's more, but the point is that every principle or practice that we accept and

support has implications that we might prefer to ignore. Whatever you think of homosexuals, they're people, not abstractions, and we can't accept them as equals entitled to all of the rights of American citizenship and, at the same time, deny them the privilege of comfortably expressing their emotions just as straights do.

Some argue that disgust at the sight of two men kissing is a natural, innate response programmed by millennia of "normal" heterosexual reproduction. As it happens, I'm not gay, nor an evolutionary biologist, but I'm skeptical about that notion.

Many years ago I was loosely acquainted with an old man who, otherwise uncharactistically, would sit up at night and watch soft-core, cable-grade pornography. I'm told that he watched whatever came on, more or less indiscriminately, from regular canoeing to mild lesbianism to, probably, benign domination.

But when a black man finally fondled and kissed a white woman on TV, he said, "Now, that's disgusting."

Maybe there are some things that we're programmed to find disgusting. But I suspect that a lot of what we find offensive or objectionable or disgusting doesn't have much of a rational basis.

Certainly our prejudices are learned. And they can be unlearned.

Whether you believe homosexuality is "normal" or not, the destruction of the stigma that is attached to it is a healthy goal for our nation. We've made progress. The worthy end of our progress might be the day when we don't find anything particularly remarkable about two men holding hands or kissing in public.

I understand that some of them even have sex, as well.

John M. Crisp is a columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.

## To close opportunity gap, level educational playing fields

BY DOYLE MCMANUS

Ever since the financial crash of 2008, we've been having an anxious national debate about the growing income gap. What does it mean for American society when most workers' wages are flat and almost all economic gains flow to the top 1 percent — or to the top one-tenth of 1 percent?

But it's a discussion that too often turns into a sterile squabble over economic theology between liberal populists, who want to tax the rich, and supply-siders, who say that cutting taxes will add jobs, reward entrepreneurship and raise all boats.

So maybe it would be helpful to set the problem of the income gap aside for a while and focus instead on a problem everyone can agree on: the opportunity gap.

The American dream is the idea that anyone can get ahead in life with talent and hard work. But that ideal of wide-open opportunity has been denied quite a bit in the economic stagnation of the last few years.

That's a problem that Republicans as well as Democrats recognize.

"What I believe unites the people of this nation ... is the simple, profound belief in opportunity for all — the notion that if you work hard and take responsibility, you can get ahead," President Barack Obama said in his State of the Union address this year. "Let's face it: That belief has suffered some serious blows."

"The income gap gets the headlines," Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said in a speech

last week. "But it's the opportunity gap that should concern us all."

In recent months, Rep. Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and other potential GOP presidential candidates have made a point of calling for a new conservative agenda to help the poor and the struggling middle class. Their ideas all build around the emollient idea of increasing opportunity for everyone.

"If we focus on the question of opportunity, the two political parties may actually be able to have a respectful, fact-based discussion, even though they obviously won't agree on every solution," said William A. Galston, a former Clinton aide now at the Brookings Institution.

If only it were that easy.

But here's a starting point for that discussion: education.

Education has long been the traditional route to opportunity for American families of modest means. But a growing educational achievement gap between low-income and affluent kids is making that path both harder and less accessible.

And the gap is getting wider, mostly because wealthy kids' test scores have been improving dramatically while middle-class kids have improved only slightly over time. "The top has pulled away from the middle," said Sean Reardon, of Stanford's Graduate School of Education.

Strikingly, much of that income differential in test scores shows up among kids who are tested in the first months of kindergarten, before they've spent significant time

## Affluent kids are far more likely to get a good preschool education and have parents who read to them and nurseries full of educational toys.

in school. "It's preschool," Reardon said, along with "the out-of-school environment, that creates the gap." Affluent kids are far more likely to get a good preschool education and have parents who read to them and nurseries full of educational toys.

The gap only widens from there. Other scholars found in 2006 that parents in the top one-fifth of households spent about \$7,500 more each year on their children — on child care, tutors, after-school programs and athletics — than households in the bottom fifth. Much of that spending, of course, was designed to improve kids' chances of getting into a good college, the biggest tollbooth on the opportunity trail.

Canadian writer Christyia Freeland calls this "the educational arms race."

"We're all going to do everything we can for our kids, of course; there's no way to stop that," she told me. "But it creates a huge difference in where people are at the starting line."

One obvious way to address the problem would be with free, high-quality preschool for all children. Thirty states have already established universal preschool programs, including conservative Oklahoma and Georgia.

So far, Republicans in Congress have resisted Obama's proposal for a federal program that would help fund pre-K programs across the entire country. But if they start seeing results from states that aren't controlled by Democrats, perhaps they can be brought around.

Another important element for leveling the educational playing fields is community colleges, which have historically been a route both to four-year degrees and to better jobs for low-income students.

But community colleges are struggling in both blue and red states. During the recession, states made deep cuts in their funding. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported this month that state spending on both two-year and four-year public colleges has declined 23 percent per student since 2007.

Providing universal preschool and improving community colleges won't close the opportunity gap. But with both parties agreeing that the gap needs attention, they might provide a starting point for creative politicians to find some common ground — and even to seize an opportunity.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times.



## WORLD

# UN: Forced labor a \$150B-a-year business

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Trafficking, forced labor and modern slavery are big business generating profits estimated at \$150 billion a year, the U.N. labor agency said Tuesday.

The report by the International Labor Organization finds global profits from involuntary workers — an estimated 21 million of them — have more than tripled over

the past decade from its estimate of at least \$44 billion in 2005.

ILO Director Guy Ryder said his agency's report Tuesday calls attention to the need "to eradicate this fundamentally evil, but hugely profitable practice as soon as possible."

Two-thirds of the profits come from sexual exploitation, it says, and one third

is the result of "forced economic exploitation" that includes domestic and agricultural workers.

With poorer and less-educated people more vulnerable to exploitation, Ryder said his agency "for the first time provides solid evidence for a correlation between forced labor and poverty" by taking a look at both the supply and demand for workers.

"We need to strengthen social protection floors to prevent households from sliding into the poverty that pushes people into forced labor," he said.

"We need to improve levels of education and literacy so that household decision-makers can understand their own vulnerability to forced labor and know their rights as workers."

## Thailand's military declares martial law but denies coup

BY THANYARAT DOKSONE  
AND TODD PITMAN  
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's powerful military chief intervened Tuesday for the first time in the country's latest political crisis, declaring martial law and dispatching gun-mounted jeeps into the heart of the capital with a vow to resolve the deepening conflict as quickly as possible.

The move stopped short of a coup and left the nation's increasingly cornered caretaker government intact, along with the constitution. Life continued normally with residents unfazed by the news, which follows six months of crippling protests that killed 28 people and injured more than 800.

But the intervention left the country at another precarious crossroads — its fate now squarely in the hands of the military.

"The key going forward will be the military's role in politics," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University. "If they play the role of enforcer of law and order and even mediator ... this could be a resolution to the impasse."

But if they don't, "we can expect protests and turmoil from the losing side."

Thailand, an economic hub for Southeast Asia whose turquoise waters and idyllic beaches are a world tourist destination, has been rocked by off-and-on political turmoil since 2006, when



**‘Don't worry. Everything will still go on normally. (We) will try not to violate human rights — too much.’**

Gen. Prayuth Chan-Ocha  
Thai army chief

former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was toppled by a military coup after being accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespect for Thailand's king.

His overthrow triggered a power struggle that in broad terms pits Thaksin's supporters among a rural majority against a conservative establishment in Bangkok.

The military action came one day after Thailand's caretaker prime

minister refused to step down, and followed new threats by anti-government protesters to intensify their campaign to oust the ruling party by next week.

The military, which has staged 11 coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932, is widely seen as sympathetic to the protest movement. Cabinet ministers said army chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-Ocha did not consult the government before issuing the surprise announcement Tuesday to take charge of security nationwide.

In the military announcement, Prayuth cited a 1914 law giving authority to intervene during crises. He said the military was acting to prevent street clashes between political rivals, and that it would "bring back peace and order to the beloved country of every Thai as soon as possible."

Speaking to reporters later, Prayuth said martial law would last until "the country is safe and there is stability," and that it would provide the two sides the opportunity to talk about a solution.

"Don't worry," he said. "Everything will still go on normally. (We) will try not to violate human rights — too much."

Acting Prime Minister Niwatthorn Boonsongpaisan called an emergency Cabinet meeting at an undisclosed location. Afterward, he issued a brief statement saying only that the government hoped the military action will "bring peace back to the people of every group and every side."



KING ROSARIO/AP

**Thailand residents stop to take a photograph of themselves at a military checkpoint in central Bangkok on Tuesday.**

### Thais capture the mood in Bangkok with selfies

BANGKOK — Sometimes you never know when the opportunity for an interesting selfie will present itself.

When Thailand's military declared martial law early Tuesday, troops appeared on the streets at some key intersections in Bangkok. That didn't necessarily mean the situation was tense, however.

Bangkok residents going about

their morning routine didn't hesitate to stop and snap a few photos on their smartphones.

Some posed with soldiers, who complied amiably.

Two young women did what many other smartphone users around the world do millions of times a day: grab a selfie. Except their photo was with the soldiers and their guns and equipment sitting close behind.

From The Associated Press

## US warns Americans in Thailand to take care amid tensions

BY ERIK SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The State Department is advising caution for all U.S. citizens in Thailand, following the declaration of martial law throughout the country Tuesday.

The declaration came a day after Thailand's caretaker prime minister said he would not resign, amidst ongoing political protests.

"You are advised to avoid areas where there are protest activities, large gatherings or security operations and follow the instructions of Thai authorities,"

according to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok's statement.

"U.S. citizens are cautioned that even demonstrations that are meant to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence."

The embassy also encouraged Americans in Thailand to register with the embassy, either online at [step.state.gov/step/](http://step.state.gov/step/) or through consulate services.

The warning follows a travel alert issued by the embassy May 16. The alert did not advise against nonessential travel, but it did cite risks, especially in Bang-

kok, "due to ongoing political and social unrest."

Thai army officials told reporters Tuesday that the declaration of martial law was a not a coup, an action taken repeatedly by the military since Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

In Washington, State Department officials expressed concern over the martial decree.

"We expect the army to honor its commitment to make this a temporary action to prevent violence, and to not undermine democratic institutions," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a

statement Tuesday.

The last coup came in 2006, when the military forced out Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin had popular support, especially in the countryside, but also faced a strong opposition movement and accusations of corruption.

On May 7, Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, was forced out as prime minister after a court found her guilty of abuses of power.

The U.S. military maintains a close relationship with Thai military officials. Each year,

Thai officials host the multinational Cobra Gold exercise, which welcomes thousands of U.S. servicemembers.

On May 12, senior Navy leaders hosted Royal Thai Navy officials aboard the Japan-based USS Blue Ridge. A Navy press release cited Thailand as "America's oldest ally in Asia," tracing relations back to a treaty signed between the U.S. and the Kingdom of Siam in 1833.

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## WIRED WORLD

# Wired for baby

The Bellabeat fetal heart listening system can be used with a heart monitor device that plugs into a smartphone's headphone port.

COURTESY OF BELLABEAT/AP

## Pregnancy-related apps can track fetus, mom's progress

By BREE FOWLER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When I became pregnant with my daughter, now 4, I didn't even own a smartphone. I did most of my pregnancy research with my desktop computer and those pregnancy books that nearly every first-time mom reads.

Now, baby No. 2 is on the way and times have changed. With the rise of smartphones, tablets and wearable devices, there's no shortage of pregnancy-related, high-tech products on the market. I get weekly updates explaining what's going on with my body and my baby's development, which show up as notifications from my various iPhone apps. The first time around, I got emails from pregnancy websites.

There are also apps to track how much weight you've gained, how often your baby kicks and eventually how far apart your contractions are. There are even smartphone-enabled devices that let you listen to your baby's heartbeat at home.

Like a lot of second-time moms, I didn't feel the need to gorge myself on pregnancy information this time around. But I did download some of the more popular apps. I stuck largely to free apps, though I also tested a \$129 fetal heart monitor that attaches to a smartphone.

Although the apps don't cover everything an expectant mom needs to know, they offer enough that I've barely dusted off my pregnancy books this time around.

■ **BabyBump** (free, or \$4 for ad-free version with additional features; for Apple and Android devices).

Like the other pregnancy apps I tried, you start by entering your due date, weight and other information. The app creates a chart tracking your progress and showing

the number of days left.

BabyBump also encourages you to upload a photo of your expanding belly each week to create a time-lapsed series of your growth, but I didn't bother with that.

There are daily tips and a weekly update explaining what's going on with your body and baby. You can play slideshows of you and your baby's week-by-week development. Those are in the form of drawings showing an expanding belly and what's inside.

You can also join online pregnancy groups and use the app to keep a journal.



COURTESY OF WEBMD/AP

The WebMD Pregnancy app includes daily tips and suggested questions to ask your doctor at your next appointment.

The free version has advertising on the bottom. The \$4 pro version doesn't. The pro version also has a kick counter and a contraction tracker, along with planning tools for shopping, name selection and birth announcements. I didn't feel the need to pay.

■ **WebMD Pregnancy** (free, for Apple devices only).

I like this app the most. Like with the BabyBump app, there's a pregnancy calendar and weekly illustrations showing development. But WebMD's pictures are more vibrant and less cartoonish, though a bit more graphic.

There are daily tips and suggested questions to ask your doctor at your next appointment.

You can keep track of your doctor's appointments and log your weight and blood pressure. Although I used the app to track how much weight I was gaining, I didn't bother with the blood pressure and found my Google calendar to be more useful in logging appointments.

The app includes a kick counter and a contraction timer for free.

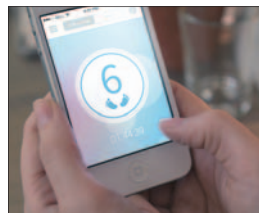
I found this app easier and more fun to use than BabyBump.

■ **Bellabeat** (free app, but heart monitor costs \$129; app for Apple and Android devices).

At-home fetal heart listening systems aren't new. There are a handful of products of varying prices and quality, but many people have complained that they don't work well and aren't easy to use, especially in the early stages of pregnancy.

You plug the Bellabeat heart monitor into your smartphone's headphone port, and then plug a set of earbuds into the device. It runs on two AAA batteries.

The companion smartphone app detects the baby's heart rate and lets you record the sound. You can even share the audio



COURTESY OF BELLABEAT/AP

The mobile app for the Bellabeat fetal heart listening system detects the baby's heart rate and lets you record the sound, and you can share the audio clip through Facebook, Twitter or email.

clip through Facebook, Twitter or email.

Like the devices used by doctors, the Bellabeat uses high-frequency sound waves to pick up the heartbeat. But this isn't nearly as advanced as the one at my doctor's office.

I had a mixed experience with it.

The first time I tried the Bellabeat, I was 37 weeks pregnant and pretty huge. I managed to pick up my baby's heartbeat after a few tries. But a few days later, after the baby had moved into a new position, I couldn't seem to find it at all. I just got a lot of whooshing noises from the device.

Eventually, I picked up a faint heartbeat. I wasn't worried, but I can see why some doctors don't like these gadgets. They can cause unnecessary distress.

You can get the app for free without buying the device, and it gets you a lot of the same tools that WebMD and BabyBump provide.

The real question is: Is it worth \$129 to hear your baby's heartbeat whenever you like?

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man, 6-year-old boy killed by passing train

**NY** KINGSBURY — Authorities said a 30-year-old man and a 6-year-old boy were fishing from a New York railroad trestle when they were killed by a passenger train.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Monday that the bodies were found around 7:30 p.m. Sunday along the tracks in the town of Kingsbury, 50 miles north of Albany. Their names haven't been released yet.

Police said the victims weren't related but were acquaintances from the Fort Edward area.

Investigators believe the victims were struck by a southbound Amtrak train heading for New York City. The train didn't stop. Sheriff Jeff Murphy told local media that the conductor apparently was unaware of the collision, even though it happened during daylight.

## Monkey still on loose after fire at facility

**PA** HANOVER — Volunteers at an exotic animal rescue in southern Pennsylvania are still looking for a monkey that got loose and ran away during a fire that destroyed the facility.

The East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue in Adams County burned down early Saturday. Two residents escaped, and most of the animals were saved from the fire. Two cats died.

A capuchin monkey named Bug escaped from his carrier during the rescue and ran into the woods. He remained missing on Sunday.

"He's special to us, and finding him is our number one priority," volunteer Melissa Bishop told pennlive.com.

Fairfield fire Chief Adam Jacobs said the fire was likely caused by a wireless router that shorted out and ignited some papers.

## Woman charged after hash oil explosion

**MT** HAMILTON — A Corvallis woman faces four felony charges for a hash oil explosion in a home that injured two people, including a teenager who was treated at a Seattle burn center.

The Ravalli Republic reported that Mariah Marie Smith, 20, was charged last week with conspiring to operate a clandestine laboratory, criminal production and possession of dangerous drugs and criminal endangerment. Smith did not enter a plea. She remained jailed Monday in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Her arraignment in district court is set for June 4.

Ravalli County authorities learned about the May 6 explosion at the home of the boy's father when the teen was dropped off at the Hamilton hospital with burns on his head, neck, shoulders, chest, hands and feet.

## Dragging death leads to lengthy prison sentence

**MA** WORCESTER — A man from Ecuador



DYLAN LOVAN/AP

## Selfie with a ray

A visitor attempts to take a selfie with a shark ray at the Newport Aquarium in Newport, Ky. The aquarium, which is across the river from Cincinnati, remains a top tourist attraction as it turns 15 this month.

convicted of dragging a Milford motorcyclist to his death under his pickup truck has been sentenced to up to 14 years in prison.

A judge Monday sentenced Nicolas Dutan Guaman, 37, after clearing him of second-degree murder but convicting him on other charges, including vehicular manslaughter, in the August 2011 death of Matthew Denice, 23.

Prosecutors said Guaman was drunk and driving without a license when he hit Denice's motorcycle. Denice was dragged even as witnesses barked on the side of Guaman's pickup.

Guaman's lawyer said his client was unaware Denice was pinned in the truck's wheel well.

## Stranded seal pups on beaches said likely OK

**WA** OCEAN SHORES — Ocean Shores police

received an increase in 911 calls over the weekend from people reporting harbor seal pups that appeared to be stranded.

Police said don't worry; the baby seals are just waiting for mom to return.

Officer Paul Henderson told KBKW that mothers will often leave their pups on the beach for several hours at a time while they're foraging for food. It's normal for seal pups to be alone on the beach. That does not mean they're abandoned.

But meddling with a pup might cause the mother to abandon it. Nursing pups remain with their mothers for four to six weeks until they are weaned.

## Woman calls in bomb threats to graduation

**CT** HAMDEN — A woman called in bomb threats to a Quinnipiac University's com-

mencement in a bid to keep her family from learning that she wasn't graduating despite taking money from her mother for her education, according to police.

Danielle Shea, 22, of Quincy, was wearing a cap and gown she'd purchased when she was arrested Sunday, Hamden police said. Police said she gave a detailed confession.

Shea was arraigned Monday in Meriden Superior Court. Bail was set at \$10,000 bond. She is charged with first-degree threatening and falsely reporting an incident.

## High court rules for Exxon in gator lawsuit

**MS** JACKSON — A divided Mississippi Supreme Court has ruled that Exxon Mobil Corp. can't be held liable for the presence of alligators at a waste site it owns in Wilkinson

## THE CENSUS

# \$23M

The amount in fees that might be charged by lawyers in a class-action lawsuit against a Los Angeles cemetery. Plaintiff Joseph Naiman said that after the lawyers get their money, there won't be enough of the \$35 million settlement left for the thousands of family members involved in a lawsuit against Eden Memorial Park. Owners of the cemetery in Woodland Hills, Calif., agreed in February to the settlement of the suit, which claimed that it damaged burial containers to maximize profits. The deal was finalized by a judge on Thursday. The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday that Naiman contested the nearly 28,000 hours of work that attorneys said had been put in on the case, as well as their billing rates, which ranged from \$600 to \$885 an hour.



County.

The oil giant had been sued by a couple — Tom and Consandra Christmas — who had planned to build a house on an adjoining parcel. However, the couple said that when they began clearing land, they discovered the property was infested with alligators.

The court, in a 5-4 ruling released Thursday, found a trial court was correct to dismiss the case. The Christmases had claimed Exxon had introduced the alligators, but the majority found that there's no evidence the current alligators are descended from those introduced. The court also ruled that landowners can't be held responsible for wild animals.

## Occupancy activist gets 90 days in jail for assault

**NY** NEW YORK — An Occupy Wall Street activist convicted of assaulting a police officer was sentenced to 90 days in jail on Monday.

Cecily McMillan, 25, who insisted she was innocent, had faced as much as seven years in prison. She apologized in court for injuring the officer but said it was an accident. The felony trial of the graduate student became a rallying point for activists. The courtroom was packed with about 50 of her supporters; scores more could not get in.

"A civil society must not allow an assault to be committed under the guise of civil disobedience. ... Ms. McMillan must take responsibility for her conduct," Justice Ronald Zweibel said in Manhattan Supreme Court.

McMillan was charged with deliberately elbowing an officer in the eye in March 2012 during a gathering that marked the six months since Occupy Wall Street began.

From wire reports



## FACES



LINDSEY WASSON, THE SEATTLE TIMES/AP

Macklemore said the beard, black wig and hooked nose he wore during an appearance in Seattle were chosen randomly and not meant to be a caricature of a Jewish man.

## Macklemore apologizes for offensive costume

By CHRIS TALBOTT  
The Associated Press

Rapper Macklemore posted an apology on his website late Monday, saying he didn't mean to mock Jewish people by wearing a costume that some say was anti-Semitic during a performance in Seattle last week.

Macklemore wrote that he randomly chose the pieces of the costume he wore at Friday's performance so that he could disguise himself and move freely around during the secret show. He said it wasn't meant to be a caricature of a Jewish man.

"I respect all cultures and all people," he wrote. "I would never intentionally put down anybody for the fabric that makes them who they are. I love human beings, love originality, and ... happen to love a weird outfit from time to time."

Grammy Award winners Macklemore & Ryan Lewis made the appearance at the EMP Museum in their hometown to help celebrate the debut of a new exhibition.

Photos from the concert show Macklemore wearing a black wig and beard and a fake hooked nose. Macklemore and Lewis gained widespread fame with a message supporting diversity, and their hit song "One Love" calls for tolerance and support for members of the gay community.

Macklemore said he understood his detractors' point of view.

"I acknowledge how the costume could, within a context of stereotyping, be ascribed to a Jewish caricature," he wrote. "I am here to say that it was not absolutely not my intention, and unfortunately at the time I did not foresee the costume to be viewed in such regard. I'm saddened that this story, or any of my choices, would lead to any form of negativity."



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Country artist Hunter Hayes performs at the Stagecoach Music Festival on April 26 in Indio, Calif.

## 'There's no reason not to be yourself'

Hunter Hayes says new album is most honest yet

By KRISTIN M. HALL  
The Associated Press

**H**unter Hayes may be a platinum-selling, arena-headlining, Grammy Award-nominated country star, but he has all the same questions about love as any other 22-year-old.

He jumps headfirst into those questions with the pull-at-your-heartstrings country pop songs on his new album "Storyline," which he calls his most honest work.

"And you get this record that is very emotional, it's exciting," Hayes says. "It's nerve-wracking." He shares his personal journey from music geek to country star with his song "Invisible," an uplifting universal message about individuality and strength.

"My fans have given me a chance to make the music I have always made, but I've only made it by myself in my living room," Hayes said. "Now I have a place where I can be myself, where I can be the geek that loves music on stage in an arena."

Co-written with songwriters Bonnie Baker and Katrina Elam, the song was so personal to Hayes he says he spent nearly two months working on putting it to music, erasing much of his work and then starting over again. He says he never

intended or thought "Invisible" would work as a single because it was too personal and serious.

"'Invisible' was something that I wrote to say that I've been able to see that your dreams can come true, and there's no reason not to be yourself," Hayes says.

**4** The Louisiana-born singer has found his initial success in doing things his way. He played all the instruments himself on his self-titled debut album, which earned him four Grammy nominations and led to three platinum-selling singles.

So when it came time to record new music, he wanted to avoid repeating himself.

This time he was inspired by bands like Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, Fleetwood Mac and Zac Brown Band to showcase his own band's talent and give a more collective sound to this album. He also paired up composer Paul Buckmaster, who is known for working on Elton John records, with steel guitar player Paul Franklin.

"I wanted that new dimension of having several different people with their own gift of interpretation," Hayes said. "It's opened so many doors for me creatively."

## Beyonce, Jay Z's fake trailer a hit

Beyonce and Jay Z released a trailer for a fake movie online with guns blazing. Now fans want to see the film actually made.

Fans launched a petition Monday on Change.org to support a feature-length version of "Run." The trailer that debuted Sunday stars the superstar couple as gun-toting outlaws. It features cameos by Sean Penn, Don Cheadle and Blake Lively, among others.

The fake trailer concludes with the words "coming never."

Beyonce and Jay Z are sharing top billing for their "On the Run" concert tour that's set to begin next month in Miami.

The couple made news last week for a different video. TMZ posted footage showing a physical altercation between Jay Z and Beyonce's sister, Solange Knowles. The trio said in a statement they had "worked through" that incident.

## 'Shield' actor Jace charged in wife's death

Authorities say actor Michael Jace is charged with homicide after his wife was found shot to death in their California home.

The Los Angeles Times reports that city police arrived at the couple's home in the Hyde Park neighborhood around 8:30 p.m. Monday and that April Jace, 40, was found dead inside.

Detective Eric Crosson tells the newspaper that Michael Jace was taken into custody Monday night and arrested on a homicide charge later. Jace was in custody and unavailable for comment.

Jace, 50, played a police officer in the TV series "The Shield" and had roles in "Forrest Gump" and "Planet of the Apes." The couple were married nine years and have two children.

## Other news

■ Two men convicted last year of plotting to kill soul singer Joss Stone have had their prison sentences reduced on appeal. Junior Bradshaw and Kevin Liverpool were arrested in June 2011 near the singer's house in southwest England. A sword, three knives, two hammers, masks and gloves were found in their car. The Court of Appeal judges on Tuesday said Liverpool would be eligible for parole in December 2017. He was originally sentenced to life with a minimum term of 10 years, eight months. The judges reduced the sentence for Bradshaw, who they described as "a foot soldier" in the failed plot, to 10 years from 18.

■ Paul McCartney, 71, is canceling his entire Japan tour because of illness. The former Beatle got a virus last week and canceled several appearances, apologizing online to fans. The official site of McCartney's "Out There Japan Tour 2014" said his doctors are ordering him "complete rest." McCartney is still scheduled for a concert in Seoul on May 28 at Jamsil Sports Complex Main Stadium, followed by 19 U.S. performances.

From The Associated Press

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## AT&amp;T eyes football in DirecTV deal

Merger could bring satellite provider's NFL Sunday Ticket to mobile devices

By RYAN NAKASHIMA  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One of the hidden benefits of AT&T's \$48.5 billion planned purchase of DirecTV is that it raises the possibility of making DirecTV's programming crown jewel, NFL Sunday Ticket, more broadly available on mobile devices.

Making exclusive live NFL game programming available on AT&T smartphones could trump Verizon's deal with the NFL for certain live game streams on its phones, because NFL Sunday Ticket involves most NFL games, not just a handful on certain nights of the week.

Verizon's NFL Mobile deal enters its fifth season later this year when the two sides signed a multi-year extension last June.

For \$5 a month, Verizon's NFL

Mobile app allows live game streams on smartphones — not tablets — for Thursday night, Sunday night and Monday night games. It will add local Sunday afternoon games this coming season.

DirecTV's NFL Sunday Ticket allows for live broadcasts of most NFL games around the country. A basic NFL Sunday Ticket subscription currently costs \$240 for the season, on top of the price of a DirecTV subscription. But if you want to watch games on your computer, smartphone or tablet, you need to pay an additional \$90 for NFL Sunday Ticket Max. Local games are subject to blackouts because of existing broadcast rights.

In owning DirecTV, AT&T could potentially make mobile access a perk for its wireless customers, the way subscribers now

get family discounts to Beats Music's streaming service.

AT&T Inc. announced Sunday that it has agreed to buy satellite TV provider DirecTV for \$48.5 billion, or \$95 per share, in a deal both companies described as transformational as they seek to take on cable companies and on-line video providers.

The proposed combination, which is subject to regulatory approval, would allow the delivery of content to multiple screens on living room TVs, PCs, tablets and mobile phones.

DirecTV CEO Michael White said the "confident" that it can renew its Sunday Ticket deal with the NFL after it expires at the end of the upcoming season, but he stopped short of saying it would definitely be available on AT&T smartphones. He pointed out that DirecTV has sold NFL Sunday

Ticket without a pay TV package, although it no longer does that. That package had been available on Sony's PlayStation.

AT&T said in a regulatory filing Monday that if DirecTV fails to renew its contract on terms the two sides discussed privately, it could call off the takeover.

## MARKET WATCH

May 19, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+20.55
Nasdaq composite	+35.23
Standard & Poor's 500	+1.22
Russell 2000	+11.52
	1,114.43

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (May 21)	\$1.4079
Dollar buys (May 21)	€0.7103
British pound (May 21)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (May 21)	¥99.00
South Korean won (May 21)	₩996.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.0840
China (Yuan)	6.1191
Denmark (Krone)	5.4432
Egypt (Pound)	7.1192
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.7079/2,7299
Hungary (Forint)	222.69
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4732
Japan (Yen)	101.22
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2818
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Philippines (Peso)	43.78
Poland (Zloty)	3.06
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2524
South Korea (Won)	1,025.17
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8917
Thailand (Baht)	32.54
Turkey (Lira)	1.1125

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., nonlocal British pounds in Germany), which with your local military banking facility commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.39

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



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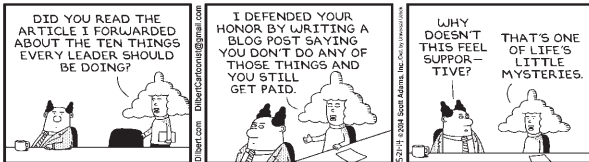
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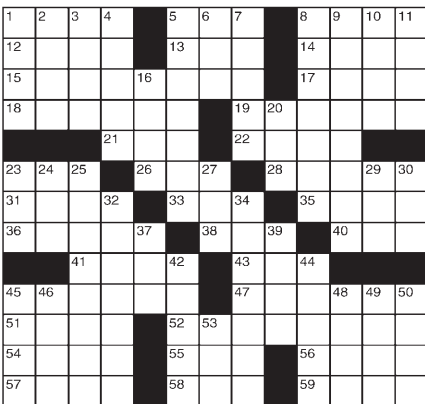
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- Lumber
- Gear tooth
- "Dilbert" intern
- Advantage
- Have bills
- "GWTW" acreage
- Private's boss
- Persia, now
- Time patterns
- Knot
- Perch
- Gymnast Korbut
- Commercials
- Conger, e.g.
- Journalist Joseph
- Nitwit
- Scepter
- Slave to crosswords?

### DOWN

- Into the sunset
- River to the Baltic
- Shrek, for one
- "Ballet Rehearsal" painter
- Tabletop protector
- Possess
- Reach
- Goosefleshy
- Seaweed-rich sea
- Exam format
- Wellies role
- Brickell or Adams
- Carte intro
- Tummy muscles
- Speck
- Durra and milo, e.g.
- Depressed
- budget
- Apiece
- "Hogwash!"
- Abandons
- Links standard
- Bob's pal
- Disarrayed
- Time spent at a job
- Arthur of tennis
- Old portico
- Bakery worker, at times
- "The Amazing —"
- Benevolent order
- Work with

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



5-21

### CRYPTOQUIP

W D D V H F E A M N X T M  
W S M A C W X L M U D C V T  
Q G H O W S Q X A W Q N H G E L M C  
V D Q C X O M E , W ' U E X P  
L Z M P Q V L A G S N Z - U C G S F .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I DON'T HAVE A CERTAIN FLOWER, IT MAKES ME FEEL VERY LETHARGIC. I GET LACK-A-DAISY-CAL.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I



# NFL owners delay playoff expansion vote

[illegible]



## SCOREBOARD

## Sports

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)

## Pro soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	6	3	2	20	13	20	13
Sporting KC	6	3	2	17	10	16	10
Real Salt Lake	5	4	3	15	12	18	13
D.C.	4	4	3	15	12	14	12
New York	4	4	3	13	14	13	14
Columbus	3	4	4	13	14	13	14
Toronto FC	3	4	4	13	14	13	14
Chicago	2	4	6	12	19	15	20
Philadelphia	2	4	6	12	19	15	20
Montreal	1	5	7	8	18	18	18

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

WESTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	8	3	1	25	23	23	12
Portland	7	3	2	22	12	12	12
FC Dallas	5	4	5	21	20	12	12
Vancouver	4	4	6	18	12	14	12
San Jose	4	4	6	18	12	14	12
Chivas USA	2	4	10	10	12	14	12
Portland	1	3	7	10	12	14	12
Los Angeles	1	5	7	8	18	18	18

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday, May 14

Philadelphia 2, Sporting Kansas City 1

Toronto FC 2, New York 0

Houston 1, Los Angeles 0

Philadelphia 3, Philadelphia 3

D.C. United 1, Montreal 1, tie

Portland 1, San Jose 1, tie

FC Dallas 1, Chivas USA 1, tie

Real Salt Lake 2, Colorado 1

Seattle FC 1, San Jose 1, tie

Portland 3, Columbus 3, tie

Friday's games

Chicago 2, Sporting Kansas City 1

Houston 2 at D.C. United

FC Dallas at Los Angeles

Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City

Saturday's games

Portland at New York

Seattle FC at Vancouver

Chicago 2, Columbus 1

D.C. United at New England

Portland 2 at Colorado

FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake

Sunday's games

Philadelphia at Los Angeles

Houston at San Jose

Monday's games

Seattle

Portland

FC Dallas

San Jose

Chivas USA

Portland

Los Angeles

San Jose

Chivas USA

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## WORLD CUP

Valcke:  
Plenty  
left to do

By TALES AZZONI  
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke arrived in Brazil on Monday to oversee the final preparations for the World Cup, saying he expects "busy days ahead" to make sure everything is ready in time.

The FIFA official in charge of the tournament arrived a day after Brazil held the last two test events at its delayed stadiums, including at the Sao Paulo venue that will host the opener in a few weeks.

Valcke said he will visit all 12 host cities again "to see that the finishing touches" are completed. He said FIFA's operational teams have "begun fanning out to the venues" for the final installations.

In his latest column on FIFA.com, the secretary general also criticized headlines "screaming that Brazilians don't want the World Cup," saying he is sure there is widespread support for the tournament in Brazil.

Brazil had seven years to get ready for the World Cup but work remains incomplete ahead of the June 12 opener between Brazil and Croatia.

"We have busy days ahead of us with still a lot to be done," Valcke said, calling for a collective effort by FIFA, the local World Cup organizing committee and the local governments.

"I am here to see that the finishing touches for the FIFA World Cup operation are completed in time for kickoff," he said. "We will be focusing primarily on ensuring that all is in place for the 32 teams, the approximate 3 million fans watching the matches live in the 12 arenas and the billions watching the event on TV."

Valcke began his tour of host cities in Sao Paulo, where the Itaquerao stadium held its first — and only — official test event on Sunday. Local organizers acknowledged there were some problems but expressed satisfaction with the overall results.

Valcke said on Twitter that the Itaquerao "still needs 100 percent from everybody to guarantee necessary structures are in place" for the opener.

"A test event does not compare to the scale, needs (and) global attention of the opening match of the World Cup," he said.

Valcke was in Brazil last month to visit the Itaquerao and said there was "not a minute" to waste to get the stadium ready.

The Itaquerao is one of the stadiums that have not been tested with a full crowd in attendance because of delays. The same happened at the Arena Pantanal in the western city of Cuiaba and the Arena da Baixada in the southern city of Curitiba.

The Arena Pantanal also held its final test on Sunday.



SCOTT HEPPELL/AP

As the Americans prepare for next month's World Cup tournament in Brazil, the pressure for goals will be on U.S. forward Jozy Altidore, left.

# A decade of frustration

## US forwards in scoring drought

By RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — It's been 12 years since a U.S. forward scored in a World Cup.

Brian McBride's goal against Mexico during a 2002 second-round match in South Korea helped the Americans advance to the quarterfinals in their best showing since 1930. The U.S. has eight goals in the two World Cups since then, seven by midfielders Landon Donovan, Clint Dempsey and Michael Bradley, plus an own-goal against Italy.

"I didn't realize that," Chris Wondolowski, who is among the forwards vying for a spot in the squad, said before a training session Sunday. "If a forward scores, we'll be happy. If a defender scores a hat trick, we'll be just as happy."

As the Americans prepare for next month's tournament in Brazil, pressure for goals will be on Jozy Altidore and Dempsey.

Altidore has 21 goals for the U.S. and last summer became the first American to score in five straight international matches. But he struggled in his first season with Sunderland in the Premier League, getting just two goals in 38 games.

It mirrored his slump four years ago, when

he had only two goals in 30 matches during a one-season loan to Hull. He started all four matches for the U.S. at the 2010 World Cup, at age 20. In 2011-12, he scored 20 goals for AZ Alkmaar in the Netherlands and added 31 the following season, setting a record for an American with a European club.

That earned him a transfer to the Premier League. And then came another drought.

"We have guys in abundance that can get the job done," he said. "I think we'll be fine."

Dempsey, 31, replaced Carlos Bocanegra as the American captain last year. His profile rose while at Fulham from 2006 to 2012 when he scored 60 goals.

He moved to Tottenham but lasted just one season at White Hart Lane. Then he made the surprising move back to Major League Soccer last summer, signing a big-money deal with the Seattle Sounders that guarantees him nearly \$6.7 million this year.

While he didn't score in seven matches during a winter loan back to Fulham, he has eight goals in six games with the Sounders in 2014.

"I'm in a good run of form. Feeling confident and in a good rhythm," he said.

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley contributed to this report.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

United States forward Clint Dempsey battles for the ball during a World Cup qualifying game against Antigua and Barbuda in Tampa, Fla., on June 8, 2012.

# AUTO RACING

# Busch down to backup car after crash at Indy

By MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS—Kurt Busch wrecked during Monday's practice at Indianapolis, putting him in a backup car for the open-wheel portion of his historic double this weekend.

Busch spun coming out of the second turn on the 2.5-mile oval and slammed hard into the outside wall. It was the biggest crash of the month.

Andretti Autosport said Monday night the car would not be repaired by the Indy 500 and Busch will drive teammate Marco Andretti's backup car. Busch will still start 12th.

Debris flew into the air, there was a small fire and one of the



Busch

tires rolled dangerously down the track as the car rolled to a stop on the infield grass. But the hardest part for Busch was contemplating all the work that must be done now as he becomes

the fourth driver to attempt completing the Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. Both races will be held Sunday.

"This created a lot of work for the Andretti guys. I feel bad for that," he said. "As a rookie, there's things you learn and put it up on the edge and get away with and then there's times when it will bite you. It's just tough."

Busch was checked by IndyCar medical director Dr. Michael Olinger at the infield medical center and immediately cleared to drive.

Busch said he was fine and ready to return to racing Friday when the final 1-hour practice sessions will be held. Busch said it wasn't a big deal he had to switch cars because he completed his



MIKE FAIR/AP

The car driven by Kurt Busch catches fire after hitting the wall in the second turn during practice on Monday for the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Busch will have to compete in Andretti Autosport teammate Marco Andretti's backup car and will start 12th.

Indy rookie orientation program earlier this month in a different Andretti Autosport car.

"The ability of the Andretti Autosport team to field the car, it doesn't matter how it starts, or where it comes from, they've been very accurate with everything," Busch said by phone. "I'll get over it quick. I've wrecked cars before."

In the garage area, crew members covered the damaged right side of the car with blankets before moving it into the garage and closing the door. When some fans attempted to take parts from the car, Andretti Autosport team members chased them down and retrieved the parts.

The team then took the car back to its Indy shop to determine whether the car could be repaired.

"We've already worked our crews to death, trying to work with this schedule," said Kyle Moyer, Andretti's director of racing operations. "But we'll get it done."

Initially, officials said Busch would start from the back of the field if he used another car in the race. Series officials later clarified

that would not be the case, something that should help Busch.

He qualified 12th, the outside of Row 4 on the 33-car starting grid. No driver has won Indy after starting 33rd.

What happened? "I was starting to feel comfortable," Busch said. "That's when I made the mistake of just letting my guard down or settling into that long run-type mentality whereas with an Indy car you have to be on edge. You have to keep track of where you are at all times and the adjustments in the car."

Other IndyCar drivers thought Busch may have been done in by his NASCAR roots.

"It looked like he just got loose in two and it looked to me like he overcorrected, like you would in NASCAR," Josef Newgarden said. "The thing looked like it almost snapped straight, but then it went in on its side."

Here are five other things from practice:

**1 New leader:** Though the speed chart from Monday's practice means little because teams were working on race setup in traffic, Newgar-

den, who drives for Sarah Fisher's team, was the fastest of the day. His best lap was 227.105 mph. Roger Penske's Juan Pablo Montoya, the 2000 Indy winner, was second at 226.532. Scott Dixon, also a previous Indy winner, was third at 226.433 for Target Chip Ganassi, and Russia's Mikhail Aleshin was the fastest rookie at 226.371. Aleshin was fourth.

**2 Acting presidential:** NCAA President Mark Emmert got a chance to show a different side at Indianapolis. He opened practice waving the green flag and also got a chance to ride around the track with three-time Indy winner Dario Franchitti, who retired last fall. "That was the best ever," Emmert said. "He was always my favorite driver. It was a complete surprise that he was driving it. It was wonderful to chat with him, and of course, ride around the track with him."

**3 Marriage vows:** Long-time Indianapolis 500 fans Cory and Linlee Patterson of Lafayette, Ind., were married Sunday in one of the Tower Terrace suites. They met speedway president Doug Boles and

pole-winner Ed Carpenter. They have attended the past five 500s together.

**4 Olympic quest:** Dallas Robinson and Abe Morlu, who worked with the U.S. bobsled and luge team at the Sochi Olympics, were at the track working with Buddy Lazier's team Monday. They met Lazier's engineer, David Cripps, at the Olympics and were reunited at the track. Robinson and Morlu worked with the team and took a ride in the 2-seater driven by Mario Andretti.

**5 The switchback?:** NASCAR driver Parker Kligerman started his career in open-wheel cars. Now the 23-year-old is considering a move back. He would replace Busch in the Coca-Cola 600 if Busch doesn't make it back in time. "I have a love for open-wheel cars and it's something that me and my manager Bob Perona have talked about," Kligerman said. "I've been given a bit of a vacation right now, so I'm taking the opportunity as a race fan and a racer to see what's out there and what the possibilities are."

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## MLB

# Marlins adjusting to spacious park

## Swinging for the gaps instead of the fences has given Miami a true home-field advantage

By STEVEN WINE  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Sluggish Giancarlo Stanton hasn't changed his opinion about spacious Marlins Park. He still considers it a pitcher's park and dislikes the dimensions.

His Miami Marlins teammates are trying mightily to change his mind.

The Marlins began its six-game homestand Tuesday against Philadelphia with a 17-5 home record, best in the majors. In a ballpark considered unfriendly to hitters, Miami is averaging 5.7 runs per game, second-best in the majors at home.

**"The field is so big you don't have to hit home runs to do damage,"** Mike Redmond, Marlins manager, said the way. He has found the distant fences annoying since the park opened in 2012, but he nonetheless has 31 RBIs at home, the most in the majors. In Miami he has seven homers, a .354 batting average and a 1.166 OPS.

However, Stanton still insists the Marlins' home is a pitcher's park.

"It is in terms of power, but this conversation is not relevant," he said with a frown. "I don't want to talk about complaining about the ballpark."

That would be unseemly when the Marlins have outscored opponents 125-70 at home. The differential is especially eye-popping because they've been outscored 114-79 on the road, where their record is 6-17, worst in the majors.

They concluded another dismal trip Sunday, going 4-7 and losing ace Jose Fernandez to a season-ending elbow injury last game.

But they've been the mighty Marlins at home, which is a big change. In their first two seasons at Marlins Park, the home team averaged 3.6 runs per game, third-worst in the majors.

Bryce manager Fredi Gonzalez jokingly wondered if the Marlins had a spy in the outfield tipping their hitters on pitches.

"We got in their heads a little bit," Redmond said.

It's good to have visiting teams scratching their heads. And for the Marlins, who are above .500 despite their woeful road record, it's good to be home.

They rank among the major-league leaders with 47 doubles and six triples at home.

"We knew it was going to be tough to hit home runs," manager Mike Redmond said. "But we talked during spring training about leading the league in doubles and putting balls in the gaps. The field is so big you don't have to hit home runs to do damage. You can hit triples and doubles, and you can go first to third on a single up the middle. You don't have to swing for the fences. You can stay within yourself and still be rewarded."

Even Stanton agrees. He has seen a lot of 400-foot flyouts since Marlins Park opened, but he has also watched his team score runs in bunches this year.

"You're not going to win by hitting homers here," Stanton said. "But if you understand that the guy on first is in scoring position, that's going to work to our advantage. On a normal double, here you can score from first standing up a lot of the time. We understand that and are taking advantage of it."

The Marlins tailored their lineup to the ballpark last offseason by acquiring left-handed hitter Garrett Jones and switch-hitter Jarrod Saltalamacchia. Both have homered into the upper deck in right field, where the stands are the easiest.

"The easier way to hit home runs in this ballpark is for a left-handed hitter, so we did try to bring in some left-handed power," Redmond said.

Miami also signed Casey McGehee, a right-handed hitter who bats mostly cleanup. He has only one homer but is hitting .422 with runners in scoring position.

"They've done here of using the field to hit all sorts of different ways — a drag bunt, balls hit up the middle," Collins said. "You've got to tip your hat that they've made those adjustments. This is a tough park to hit in. What they've done is found guys who put the ball in play and are difficult to defend."

Other opponents agree, but some also speculate about hidden reasons for the way the Marlins hit in their home park. When Miami scored 23 runs to sweep a three-game series at home against Atlanta last month, Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez jokingly wondered if the Marlins had a spy in the outfield tipping their hitters on pitches.

"We got in their heads a little bit," Redmond said. It's good to have visiting teams scratching their heads. And for the Marlins, who are above .500 despite their woeful road record, it's good to be home.

## Scoreboard

### American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	20	.534	
Baltimore	22	20	.524	½
Toronto	23	22	.511	1
Boston	20	23	.465	3
Tampa Bay	21	24	.422	5

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	27	13	.675	
Kansas City	22	22	.500	7
Minnesota	21	21	.500	7
Chicago	22	24	.479	8
Cleveland	20	25	.444	9½

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	25	15	.636	
Los Angeles	24	20	.545	½
Seattle	21	22	.489	6½
Texas	21	23	.477	7
Houston	18	28	.378	11½

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	24	19	.558	1½
Philadelphia	23	22	.511	2
Miami	20	20	.500	4
New York	20	20	.500	4
Philadelphia	19	22	.463	4

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	23	18	.562	
St. Louis	23	21	.523	3½
Cincinnati	21	22	.489	6
Pittsburgh	18	25	.419	8
Chicago	17	28	.377	10½

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	28	17	.622	
Colorado	25	20	.558	—
Los Angeles	23	22	.511	—
San Diego	20	24	.455	—
Arizona	18	28	.391	—

	W	L	Pct	GB
Monday's games				
Cleveland 5, Detroit 4				
Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 6				
Excelsior 5, Los Angeles 2				
Cincinnati 4, Washington 3, 15 innings				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tuesday's games				
Detroit at Cleveland				
Oakland at Tampa Bay				
Toronto at Boston				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City				
Seattle at Los Angeles				
Baltimore at Pittsburgh				
Cincinnati at Washington				
A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets				
Milwaukee at Atlanta				
B. Reds at St. Louis				
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago Cubs				
Los Angeles at Milwaukee				
San Francisco at Colorado				
Minnesota at San Diego				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Wednesday's games				
Detroit (Scheyer 3-1) at Cleveland				
Seattle (McHugh 2-2) at Texas (Tejada 2-1)				
Oakland (Molitor 1-3) at Tampa Bay (Bedard 2-1)				
Cincinnati (Hutchinson 2-3) at Boston (Buchholz 2-3)				
Chicago White Sox (Quintana 2-3) at Kansas City (Guthrie 2-3)				
Los Angeles (Samardzija 0-2) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 4-3)				
N.Y. Yankees (Whitely 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Samardzija 0-1)				
Cincinnati (Simon 5-2) at Washington (Rios 3-1)				
Baltimore (Tillman 4-2) at Pittsburgh (Rios 3-1)				
L.A. Dodgers (Roy 3-2) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 4-1)				
Milwaukee (Lohse 5-1) at Atlanta (De Santana 4-1)				
Philadelphia (Kendrick 0-4) at Miami (Eovaldi 2-1)				
Milwaukee (McCarthy 1-4) at St. Louis (Wacha 3-3)				
San Francisco (McGinn 1-3) at Colorado (Chacin 2-1)				
Minnesota (R Hughes 4-1) at San Diego (Kross 5-2)				

(W.Rodriguez 0-2)  
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 3-2) at N.Y. Mets  
(deGrom 0-1)  
Milwaukee (Lohse 5-1) at Atlanta  
(E.Santana 4-1)  
Philadelphia (K.Kendrick 0-4) at Miami  
(Eovaldi 2-2)  
Arizona (McCarthy 1-6) at St. Louis

## MLB

# Elbows: Doctors say year-round youth play factoring into damage

## FROM BACK PAGE

Dr. James Andrews, one of the world's top orthopedic physicians, met with a research committee Monday at Major League Baseball's headquarters. "We're going to put together a research project to help figure this out. We don't know quite what to say at this point," he said. "But, yeah, it's got everybody's attention."

A 2013 survey showed 25 percent of big league pitchers and 15 percent of minor league pitchers had undergone the procedure.

"This does not mean the guys who didn't make it back. These are the success stories," said Glenn Fleisig of the American Sports Medicine Institute, who conducted the survey with Stan Conte of the Dodgers.

With the advent of high-tech scans such as MRIs, doctors usually can pinpoint exactly what's wrong. And with pro pitchers under the watch of radar guns whenever they throw, the slightest drop in velocity triggers scrutiny.

But for more than a century, pitchers came up with "sore arms" and "dead arms," trying to pitch through pain.

"Back then, you could be on your deathbed and you never told anybody because if you said, 'God, my arm hurts,' there were 15 guys waiting to take your place," Tommy John said. "So I kept my mouth shut and just kept pitching, kept pitching, kept pitching." UCL reconstruction has increased 10-fold in the first decade of the 21st century, Andrews and Dr. Jeremy Bruce wrote in the May issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons*, citing a paper by J.R. Dugas. Experts think young pitchers throw far more often now than they did a decade or two ago.

"Baseball, once considered a seasonal sport, has become a year-round event in some regions of the United States, with increased team travel play and sponsored tournaments," Andrews and Bruce wrote.

An ASMI study published in 2011 examined 481 pitchers ages 9-14, and then checked with them 10 years later. Those who threw more than 100 innings



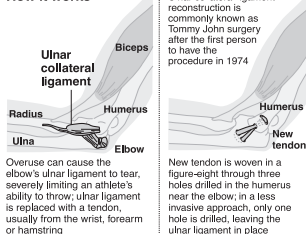
CHARLES TRAINOR JR./Miami Herald/MCT

**Marlins ace Jose Fernandez, the 2013 NL Rookie of the Year, underwent elbow surgery last week.**

## Tommy John surgery

The procedure developed by Dr. Frank Jobe, a Los Angeles orthopedic surgeon, repairs baseball pitchers' elbows. Rehabilitation from the surgery may take up to 18 months, after which players can continue their careers.

### How it works



SOURCE: Los Angeles Times reporting

LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

a year were 3.5 times more likely to need elbow or shoulder surgery or were forced to stop playing.

New York Mets medical director Dr. David Altchek says he's performing the procedure more often among teenagers, who are not as strong as professionals and are trying to impress with high velocities.

"When you're throwing year-round, you don't have much time for all this fitness stuff," Altchek said. "So you're fitness gets sacrificed. Your arm is overloaded. That's a recipe for disaster."

The USA Baseball Medical/Safety Advisory Committee recommends limits of 50 pitches per game and 2,000 pitches per year for 9- and 10-year-olds, and 75 pitches per game and 3,000 per year from 11-14. The limit rises to 90 at ages 15-16 and 105 for ages 17-18, with no more than two games a week.

Dr. Gary Green, MLB's medical director, said the sport has been collecting data on injuries and lengths of layoffs in both the major and minor leagues since 2010. However, innings and pitch counts as amateurs rarely tracked. Dr. Bert Mandelbaum, MLB's director of research, is heading the probe.

"We're looking at it in terms of the demographics: Can we predict who is going to get this injury? Is there something in their training? Is there something in their biomechanics?" Green said.

After Dr. Frank Jobe's pioneering operation on John in 1974, there were no more than four similar operations annually until a spike to 12 in 1996, according to research by Jon Roegge, who writes for the *Hardball Times* and *Beyond the Box Score*. The figure rose to 43 by 2003 and 69 in 2012 before dropping to 49 last year.

Tom House, the former big league pitcher and pitching coach, has advocated strengthening muscles in the kinetic chain involved in throwing. John thinks the opposite approach should be taken.

"These guys today, they spend more time in the weight room than they do on the mound. Strengths and weights are fine, but if that was everything, then Arnold Schwarzenegger would be a 20-game winner," John said. "They just get so big and strong that there's very little elasticity in their arms."

## Roundup

# Frazier lifts Reds over Nats in 15th

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Cincinnati Reds twice extended Monday night's extra-inning affair against the Washington Nationals with their gloves.

Todd Frazier finally won it for them with his bat.

Frazier's two-run homer in the 15th inning lifted the Reds over the Nationals 4-3.

Brandon Phillips singled off Ross Detwiler (0-2) to open the inning, and, one out, Frazier homered to center.

"I wanted to drive something. I had two good at-bats before that. It's crazy how the game goes," Frazier said. "You're 0-for-3 and then you get three more at-bats in extra innings and you go 3-for-3. So it's like a whole new game and I got a ball up, elevated and tried to drive it."

The Reds twice made two-out diving catches that prevented the winning run from scoring.

Phillips singled Wilson Ramos behind second base with a runner on third to end the 11th.

In the 14th, Billy Hamilton got a great jump and made a diving grab in right center of Anthony Rendon's liner with a man on second.

Logan Ondrusek (1-2) worked two innings, allowing an RBI single to Greg Dobbs in the bottom of the 15th before getting Danny Espinosa to fly out to deep right to end the 4-hour, 58-minute game.

"That was just a total grind, every player on the team played some sort of role in that game, and the defense was phenomenal," Reds manager Bryan Price said.

Frazier's home run also ended a 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> innings scoreless streak by the Nationals' bullpen.

"Bad execution, bad pitch selection, pretty much bad all the way around," Detwiler said.

**Indians 5, Tigers 4:** Michael Brantley homered with two outs in the 10th inning off Al Alburquerque, giving host Cleveland the win over drowsy Detroit.

The Tigers, who arrived just



ALEX BRANDON/AP

**The Reds' Todd Frazier celebrates after hitting a two-run homer during the 15th inning against the Nationals on Monday. The Reds won 4-3.**

three hours before the first pitch because of travel delays from Boston, had their 11-game road winning streak snapped.

**White Sox 7, Royals 6:** Alexei Ramirez homered and drove in four runs, Dayan Viciedo and Paul Konerko also went deep and visiting Chicago climbed out of a five-run hole before holding on for a wild win over Kansas City.

Zach Putnam (2-0) worked two shutout innings in relief of Scott Carroll, and Ronald Belisario also threw two scoreless innings before Scott Downs and Jake Petricka bailed out Matt Lindstrom.

**Astros 5, Angels 2:** Dallas Keuchel came within one out of his second consecutive shutout and Houston beat host Los Angeles for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

**Braves 9, Brewers 3:** Freddie Freeman and Justin Upton homered to help Mike Minor win his second consecutive start in host Atlanta's victory.

Atlanta began the night with the fewest runs in the majors. But the Braves banged out 15 hits and improved to 18-5 when hitting a home run.

# MILITARY APPRECIATION Event

14th Anniversary

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NEX

# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

## Baseball tournament preview

# Patch, Ramstein, Naples look a cut above

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

The 2014 DODDS Europe baseball championship tournament runs Thursday through Saturday at Kaiserslautern Military Community. Here's a look at the top contenders:

**Division I:** At this point, the Ramstein-Patch rivalry speaks for itself. The only question is if anyone is capable of interrupting it.

A quick recap: either the Royals or Panthers have won every DODDS-Europe Division I title since the organization launched the sport in 2009. Ramstein won last year, while Patch won the previous three, all at the other's expense.

There's no clear favorite this year. The teams played one doubleheader this season, with Patch winning one game 9-6 and Ramstein the other 4-2. Blessed with a strong top-to-bottom batting lineup, a reliable pitching rotation, fundamentally sound fielders and unrivaled positional depth, no other teams play at a level as consistently high as the Panthers and Royals.

But this is the postseason, and consistency isn't always the decisive factor.

While it's certainly the most likely outcome, Saturday won't necessarily bring another installment of the enduring Patch-Ramstein saga.

Vilseck proved as much earlier this season, riding a dominant two-way

effort from newly-arrived star Kurt Hall to a 2-0 upset win over the Panthers on April 19. The Panthers ultimately took the season series from the Falcons 3-1, and Ramstein beat the Falcons in both of those teams' meetings. But the game proved that a transcendent performance, particularly on the mound, can swing a game and, if it happens again this week, a tournament.

Vilseck is the most accomplished candidate to cut in on the annual Patch-Ramstein championship dance. If a lot of variables break their way, Kaiserslautern, Lakenheath or Wiesbaden might be able to hang with the established powers and give themselves a shot at an upset bid.

None of those teams will match the game-to-game standard set by Ramstein or Patch. But in the play-offs, they won't have to. This week, a seven-inning statistical outlier would work just fine.

**Division II/III:** How quickly perspectives can change over the course of a year. Last spring, Naples was a rising power eager to establish itself, and Italian baseball as a whole, on the continental stage. One year and one European championship later, the Wildcats have become the new establishment.

Everything about Naples' 12-0 regular season loudly insisted that the Wildcats are well-entrenched as the team to beat in Division II. Even their scares, like a dramatic 6-5 win over

Vicenza in a March 29 rematch of the 2013 title game, seemed to prove their mettle more than their vulnerability. Naples also appears to carry an enormous amount of championship swagger; stoked by that brush with defeat, the Wildcats didn't win a game by less than nine runs in April or May.

Still, Vicenza has the raw tools to knock off Naples under the right circumstances, and the Cougars aren't alone.

SHAPE, now two years removed from its own triumphant rise to championship status, has the top-shelf pitching and dangerous lineup required for postseason success. The Spartans have punched well over their weight class this spring, sweeping Division I Kaiserslautern, splitting with Division I Lakenheath and even holding their own for a while against defending Division I champion Ramstein. Naples doesn't get the chance to play Division I opponents, so it's hard to use those games as an indicator of how they'll match up with the Wildcats. But it's certainly not a bad sign for the Spartans.

Ansbach boasts a similar résumé to SHAPE, splitting doubleheaders with Division I Wiesbaden and Vilseck and flirting with an upset of Patch.

The sprawling Division II bracket is loaded with land mines for reigning champion Naples. For everyone else, it's filled with opportunity.

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JASON DUNE/Stars and Stripes

Naples' Jonny Bray throws a pitch against Vicenza in an April doubleheader. The unbeaten Wildcats will look to defend their Division II title starting Thursday at the DODDS European championships.

## Scoreboard

### Soccer DODDS Europe championships Tuesday in and around Kaiserslautern, Germany

**Boys**  
**Division I**  
**Pool A**  
Lakenheath 1, Vilseck 1  
Ramstein 4, Vilseck 0; Ramstein clinches spot in semifinals

**Pool B**  
Wiesbaden 0, Kaiserslautern 0  
Patch 5, ISB 0  
ISB 2, Wiesbaden 0

**Wednesday's matches**  
**Pool A**  
1. Ramstein vs. Lakenheath, 12:15 p.m. (at Reichenbach)

**Pool B**  
6. Kaiserslautern vs. 7. ISB, 12:15 p.m. (at Kaiserslautern)  
2. Patch vs. 3. Wiesbaden, 12:15 p.m. (at Reichenbach)

**Semifinals at Reichenbach**  
Both at 6:15 p.m.

**Division II**  
**(Round of 16)**  
Black Forest Academy 3, Vicenza 0  
SHAPE 4, Hohenfels 0  
Naples 2, Baumholder 0  
Ansbach 1, ADRS 1  
ADRS 2, Rota 0  
AFNORTH 4, Alconbury 0  
Bahrain 4, Bitburg 3 (in shootout)

**Wednesday's matches**  
**(Quarterfinals at Landstuhl)**  
ADRS vs. AFNORTH, 9:45 a.m.  
Naples vs. Aviano, 9:45 a.m.  
(Quarterfinals at Reichenbach)  
Marymount vs. Bahrain, 9:45 a.m.  
BFA vs. SHAPE, 9:45 a.m.  
(Quarterfinals at Reichenbach)  
TBD, 2 games at 9:45 a.m.  
**Semifinals at Reichenbach**  
Both at 5:15 p.m.

**Division III**  
**Pool A**  
Incirlik 4, Schweinfurt 4  
Sigonella 5, Ankara 0  
Menwith Hill 4, Schweinfurt 3

**Pool B**  
Brussels 6, Ankara 0  
Sigonella 6, Lajes 1  
Brussels 8, Lajes 2

**Wednesday's matches**  
**(Pool play at Kaiserslautern)**  
**Pool A**  
1. Menwith Hill vs. 4. Incirlik, 8:30 a.m.  
**Pool B**  
2. Brussels vs. 3. Sigonella, 9:45 a.m.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Gabriel Cima of Brussels, left, and Ankara's Azamat Suyubayev fight for the ball in a Division III match at the DODDS Europe soccer championships at Reichenbach, Germany, on Tuesday. Brussels won 6-0.

6. Ankara vs. 7. Lajes, 11 a.m.  
**Semifinals at Kaiserslautern**  
TBD, 3:45 p.m.  
TBD, 5:30 p.m.

**Girls**  
**Division I**  
**(Round robin play)**  
Kaiserslautern 5, Vilseck 0  
Ramstein 2, Wiesbaden 1  
Patch 3, Lakenheath 0  
Ramstein 1, Kaiserslautern 0  
Patch 3, Wiesbaden 0  
Lakenheath 3, Vilseck 1

**Wednesday's matches**  
**(Round robin play at Landstuhl)**  
4. Kaiserslautern vs. 5. Wiesbaden, 11 a.m.

5. Wiesbaden vs. 6. Vilseck, 3:45 p.m.  
**(Round robin play at Reichenbach)**  
1. Ramstein vs. 2. Lakenheath, 11 a.m.  
3. Patch vs. 6. Vilseck, 11 a.m.  
1. Ramstein vs. 3. Patch, 5 p.m.  
2. Lakenheath vs. 4. Kaiserslautern, 5 p.m.

**Division II**  
**Pool A**  
Baumholder 4, Ansbach 0  
Naples 2, AFNORTH 1

**Pool B**  
Aviano 1, ADRS 0  
SHAPE 2, Aviano 2  
Hohenfels 5, Bitburg 0  
ADRS 2, Bitburg 1  
SHAPE 4, Hohenfels 3

**Pool C**  
Alconbury 7, Bahrain 0  
Black Forest Academy 1, Rota 0  
Vicenza 3, Alconbury 1  
Rota 4, Bahrain 1  
3. Vicenza vs. 4. BFA, late

**Wednesday's matches**  
**(Quarterfinals at Landstuhl)**  
TBD, 8:30 a.m.  
**(Quarterfinals at Reichenbach)**  
TBD, 8:30 a.m.

**Semifinals at Reichenbach**  
TBD, 1:30 p.m.  
TBD, 1:30 p.m.

**Division III**  
**(Round robin play)**  
Incirlik 3, Ankara 0  
Florence 4, Menwith Hill 1  
Brussels 5, Sigonella 2  
Incirlik 2, Florence 1  
Sigonella 4, Menwith Hill 2  
Brussels 5, Ankara 1

**Wednesday's matches**  
**(Round robin play at Landstuhl)**  
1. Florence vs. 2. Brussels, 11 a.m.  
3. Sigonella vs. 6. Ankara, 12:15 p.m.  
4. Incirlik vs. 5. Menwith Hill, 12:15 p.m.  
5. Menwith Hill vs. 6. Ankara, 2:45 p.m.  
1. Florence vs. 3. Sigonella, 4 p.m.  
2. Brussels vs. 4. Incirlik, 4 p.m.



# HIGH SCHOOL: BOYS AND PACIFIC

## Far East scoreboard

### Soffball

Tuesday at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan

**Double-elimination playoffs**

**Division I**

Guam 5, American School in Japan 2

Kadena 11, Kubasaki 4

Seoul American 4

ASIJ 9, Yokota 4, Kadena eliminated

Seoul American 15, Kubasaki 6, Kuba-

saki eliminated

**Division II**

ASIJ 13, Kinnick 1; Kinnick eliminated

Seoul American vs. ASIJ, late

**Head-to-head games**

Kadena vs. Guam 5 a.m.

Seoul American vs. TBD, 4 p.m.

**Championship**

Kadena-Guam winner vs. TBD, 4 p.m.

If necessary, 6 p.m.

**Division II**

**Double-elimination playoffs**

Humphreys 12, El King 5

Osari 11, Zama 1

Edgren 15, Perry 7

Osari 15, Humphreys 1

Daegu 14, Edgren 13

King 10, Zama 5; Kadena eliminated

Humphreys 8, Perry 6; Perry elimi-

nated

King 10, Edgren 1; Edgren eliminated

Humphreys vs. Kinnick, late

**Head-to-head games**

Daegu vs. Osari 8 a.m.

Humphreys-King winner vs. Daegu-

Osari, noon

**Championship**

Daegu-Osari winner vs. TBD, 4 p.m.

If necessary, 6 p.m.

**Track**

Tuesday at Yokota Air Base, Japan

**Combined**

**Division I**

ASIJ 210/1, Kinnick 196, Kadena 146/3

Kubasaki 129/1, Seoul American 128, Yo-

kota 79/2, Guam 23, CAJ 18

**Division II**

Zama 128, Zion Christian 97, Hum-

phreys 250, Kinnick 197, Guam 92

**Boys**

**Division I**

Kubasaki 94/1, ASIJ 94/1, Seoul American 74

74, Kadena 73/1, Yokota 70, Kinnick 65, St.

Mary's 61, CAJ 2, El King 1

**Division II**

Zama 125, Zion Christian 100, Okinawa

Christian 50, Humphreys 34, Daegu 26,

Edgren 14

**Discus**

1-1, Cameron Harris, SAHS, 45.28

2-1, Brandon Harris, ASIJ, 40.78

Boland Cote, Zama, 20.12; Christian

Sonnenberg, Yokota, 42.28; 3, David Her-

ring, ASIJ, 41.45; 4, Curtis Davis, SAHS,

38.70; 5, Kane Wilton, Kubasaki, 37.92

6, Ian O'Neil, Kinnick, 37.84; 7, Michael

Clayton, Kadena, 37.18; 8, Nolyrn Riley,

Kadena, 35.16

**Long jump**

1-1, Hernandez, ASIJ, 61.25; 2, Ja-

haron Wright, Kinnick, 59.77; 3, De-

quan Alderman, Kubasaki, 53.4; 4, Jarvis

Boyd, Daegu, 5.67; 5, Shawn Robinson,

Edgren, 5.86; 6, Xavier Johnson, ASIJ,

5.86; 7, Michael Wright, Kinnick, 5.46; 8,

Rick Arellano, Yokota, 5.46

**100 - 1**, Rainer Farnell, Kubasaki,

11.16 seconds; 2, Jabari Johnson, Kinnick,

11.16 seconds; 3, Michael Wright, Kinnick,

11.34; 4, Daiquan Wilson, HHS, 11.54; 5,

James Davis, Kinnick, 11.66; 6, Michael

Wright, Kinnick, 11.66; 7, Michael Wright,

SAHS, 11.95; 8, Ken Baburek, ASIJ, 11.99

**100 hurdles**

1-1, Michael Wright, Kinnick, 19.72

Pierre,

Kubasaki, 16.71; 2, Michael Wright, Yokota,

16.96; 3, Shota Sprunger, Yokota, 17.66; 4,

Cameron Dotson, Kadena, 17.81; 5, Nick

Gaheta, Kinnick, 17.85; 7, Ian Olson, Kin-

nack, 18.26; 8, Ryan Murphy, ASIJ, 18.81

**200 - 1**, Johnson, Kinnick, 22.09; 2, Far-

nell, 22.47; 3, Michael Wright, Kinnick,

22.85; 5, Shawn Horne, SAHS, 23.22;

7, Michael Wright, Kinnick, 23.47; 8, Brigs-

Briggs, SAHS, 23.47

**400 hurdles**

1-1, Daril Anstasi, CAJ, 54.28

42.78; 2, Dale Bush, SAHS, 42.91; 3, (tie),

Edgren 42.91, Zama 42.91; 5, Edgren,

43.26; 6, Dotson, 44.34; 6, Olson, 43.88;

7, Sprunger, 44.01; 8, Cody Troxel, Zama,

44.01

**800 - 1**, Johnson, Kinnick, 48.57 (meet

record); 2, Brigs, 49.59; 3, Hiro Beale,

49.59; 4, Brigs, 49.59; 5, Hiro Beale,

51.76; 6, Baburek, 52.41; 6, George West,

52.41; 8, Leamsi, 53.41; 9, ASIJ, 53.41

53.48; Shanon Monroe, OCSJ, 54.08

54.08; 4, Kadena, 45.20; 4, ASIJ, 45.91; 5,

Edgren, 46.08; 6, CAJ, 46.08; 7, ASIJ,

46.08; 8, Zama, 46.08

**1,600 - 1**, SAHS, 3:31.36; 2, 29.22

seconds (meet record); 2, 29.22 seconds

(meet record); 3, ASIJ, 3:31.04; 4, St. Mar-

y's, 3:31.04; 5, Kinnick, 3:31.04; 6, ASIJ,

3:31.04; 7, Zama, 3:31.04; 8, OCSJ, 3:31.04

**3,200 relay**

1- Zama, 8:14.56 (meet

record); 2- Zama, 8:14.56; 3- ASIJ, 8:14.56

2, Yokota, 8:25.25; 3- ASIJ, 8:27.74; 4- St. Mar-

y's, 8:27.74; 5- Kinnick, 8:27.74; 6- ASIJ,

8:27.74; 7- Kinnick, 8:27.74; 8- Zama,

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## GOLF/NHL PLAYOFFS



# I want to play now'

PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Golfer Tiger Woods said his back injury was so debilitating that it caused him to doubt whether he would play golf again. He had surgery on March 31 and there is no timetable for his return.

## Surgery allows for Tiger's return, but no date is set

By JOSEPH WHITE  
The Associated Press

**T**BETHESDA, Md. Tiger Woods still doesn't know when he'll return. For a while, he didn't know whether he would return at all.

Woods said Monday his back injury became so debilitating this year it caused him to doubt his ability to play golf again.

"Forget about playing golf at the highest level. I couldn't get out of bed," Woods said. "I was certainly doubtful at that point. What's it going to feel like? Am I going to be pain free? Am I going to be able to actually do this again, where I can get out of bed, and go out there and play with my kids and play golf? All those things were up in the air."

Woods said the doubt was erased after microdiscectomy surgery March 31. He said the procedure, which relieved pain from a pinched nerve, provided immediate relief, although he said there's still "a timetable" for his return to golf — or even for taking a full swing. As of now, he remains limited to chipping and putting.

"It's not going to be up to me whether I play or not, it's going to be up to my docs," Woods said. "Obviously, I want to play now."

Speaking at Congressional Country Club in his role as host of next month's Quicken Loans National, Woods even joked that he wished he could join reporters on the course for their media day rounds — "even though I don't like to play with you guys."

But he offered no hint that he might be anything more than an onlooker for the Quicken Loans tournament on June 26-29 — or at the U.S. Open at Pinehurst



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

**Tiger Woods, right, smiles with his girlfriend, skier Lindsey Vonn, after the U.S. team won the Presidents Cup on Oct. 6 in Dublin, Ohio. Vonn is working her way back from a second right knee operation that kept her from competing at the Sochi Olympics. Woods is recovering from surgery to relieve pain from a pinched nerve in his back that caused him to miss the Masters.**

two weeks earlier. He's already missed the Masters for the first time.

To hear Woods, known for unyielding resolve, give voice to doubts is certainly unusual. But this injury is different from those he has endured before. He said rehab has been tedious and it's a challenge simply not to join in when his children want to play sports.

"I'll tell you what," he said, "I am damn good at video games."

When Woods does return, he'll resume his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major victories. Woods, 38, sounded as if the surgery has given him a new lease to

keep playing for a good while.

"I would like to, as all athletes, go out on my own terms," Woods said. "And ultimately I want to continue playing at an elite level as long as I deem I want to do it. For some guys it's in their 60s and 70s, and other guys it's in their 40s and 50s."

"But prior to the surgery, I didn't think I would have much of a playing career if I felt like this. ... Now that I've had the procedure, I'm excited about what the prospects hold, and if I'm able to feel this way, I'm excited about my career. I'm able to do what I want to do for as long as I want to."

## Lundqvist, Rangers get past Canadiens

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Henrik Lundqvist has solved his struggles at Montreal's Bell Centre.

The goalie called King Henrik made 40 saves and the New York Rangers took control of the Eastern Conference final with a 3-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Monday.

The Rangers lead the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final 2-0 heading back to New York for Game 3 on Thursday and Game 4 on Sunday.

The Canadiens, missing star goalie Carey Price because of an injury, came out strong in a bid to get past a 7-2 thumping in the series opener only to run into Lundqvist.

"I thought we played well, and the only reason we lost was Lundqvist," Montreal coach Michel Therrien said. "He stole that game."

Lundqvist had struggled playing in Montreal before this series. He hadn't started a game in Montreal more than two years.

But the goalie who was bested by Price at the Sochi Olympics as Canada beat Sweden in the final has allowed only three goals on 63 shots in the series.

The Canadiens got the opening goal at 6:14 of the first from Max Pacioretty, but Ryan McDonagh tied it 17 seconds later on a shot that went in off defenseman Josh Gorges and a post.

"We knew they were going to come hard, but we put ourselves in a tough spot there by not getting pucks out," Lundqvist said. "They were all over us."

"But to tie it up quickly like that, I think that was important to kind of even out the momentum a little bit."

Rick Nash and Martin St. Louis also scored on Dustin Tokarski, the surprise starter for Montreal ahead of Peter Budaj.

Tokarski looked shaky at times,

### Scoreboard

#### Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

N.Y. Rangers 2, Montreal 0

N.Y. Rangers 7, Montreal 2

Monday: N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 1

Thursday: at N.Y. Rangers

Sunday: at N.Y. Rangers

x-Tuesday: at Montreal

x-Thursday, May 29: at N.Y. Rangers

x-Saturday, May 31: at Montreal

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Chicago 1, Los Angeles 0

Chicago 3, Los Angeles 1

Wednesday: at Chicago

Saturday: at Los Angeles

Monday: at Los Angeles

x-Wednesday, May 28: at Chicago

x-Friday, May 30: at Los Angeles

x-Sunday, June 1: at Chicago

#### Monday

**Rangers 3, Canadiens 1**

N.Y. Rangers 2 1 0-3

Montreal 1 0 0-1

**First Period**—1, Montreal, Pacioretty

4:14, 2, N.Y. Rangers, McDonagh 3, 6:31,

3, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 2 (Knider, Stepan),

18:58.

**Second Period**—4, N.Y. Rangers, St.

Louis 5 (Stepan, McDonagh), 8:03 (pp),

30. Montreal 4:54-19-41.

**Power-play opportunities**—N.Y. Rang-

ers 4 (1 sh., 40 saves), Montreal 0 (4 sh.,

0-0) (1 sh., 40 saves), Montreal, Tokarski

0-1 (0-27).

A-21,273 (21,273), T-2:30.

but had no chance on two of the three Rangers goals.

The Canadiens had announced Monday morning that Price, the Olympic gold medalist who hurt his right knee in the series opener when he was crashed into by Chris Kreider, would miss the rest of the series. They hope to have him back if they reach the Stanley Cup final.

Therrien said he opted for Tokarski over Budaj because of the youngster's record of winning championships at other levels.

The 24-year-old from Humboldt, Saskatchewan, has a Memorial Cup, a world junior championship and an AHL title on his resumé.

"He's a winner," Therrien said. "I thought he played well. We talked to Peter and he reacted as a pro. He's a good teammate."



RYAN REMOZZ, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

**New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist stops a shot by Montreal Canadiens defenseman Andrei Markov during the third period in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference final on Monday in Montreal. Lundqvist made 40 saves as the Rangers won 3-1.**



## NBA PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

## Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

Indiana 107, Miami 96  
**Tuesday**: at Indiana  
**Saturday**: at Miami  
**Monday**: May 26; at Miami  
**x-Wednesday**: May 28; at Indiana  
**x-Friday**: May 30; at Miami  
**x-Sunday**: June 1; at Indiana  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**San Antonio 1, Oklahoma City 0**  
**Monday**: San Antonio 122, Oklahoma City 105

**Wednesday**: at San Antonio  
**Sunday**: at Oklahoma City  
**Tuesday**: May 27; at Oklahoma City  
**x-Thursday**: May 29; at San Antonio  
**x-Saturday**: May 31; at Oklahoma City  
**x-Monday**: June 2; at San Antonio

## Monday

## Spurs 122, Thunder 105

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Durant 10-19 4-4 28, Collison 6-10 0-0, Perkins 2-11 1-1 5, Westbrook 9-21 6-8 25, Sefolosha 0-0 0-0, Jackson 6-11 0-0 13, Butler 2-6 4-6 9, Adams 2-3 0-0 4, Fisher 4-6 4-4 16, Lamb 1-3 0-0 2, Jones 1-1 0-0 3, Robertson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-80 19-22 105.

**SAN ANTONIO** — Leonard 7-16 1-2 16, Durant 11-21 5-6 27, Splitter 3-4 0-0 6, Parker 6-12 2-3 14, Green 6-7 0-0 16, Ginobili 7-12 1-1 18, Diaw 3-7 3-4 5, Mills 2-3 0-2 5, Bellinelli 2-3 1-1 5, Barnes 1-2 0-0 2, Johnson 2-2 0-0 4, Bonner 0-0 0-0 0, Ayres 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 50-87 17-12 122.

**Oklahoma City** 37 22 23 23-105  
**San Antonio** 50 37 22 33-122  
**Three-Point Goals**—Oklahoma City 12-27 (Fisher 4-6, Durant 4-7, Jones 1-1, Jackson 1-2, Butler 1-4, Westbrook 1-4, Sefolosha 0-1, Lamb 0-1, Collison 0-1), San Antonio 9-17 (Green 4-5, Ginobili 3-4, Mills 1-2, Leonard 1-4, Parker 0-1, Bellinelli 0-1). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Oklahoma City 44 (Collison 9), San Antonio 44 (Splitter 8). **Assists**—Oklahoma City 19 (Westbrook 7), San Antonio 28 (Parker 12). **Total Fouls**—Oklahoma City 22, San Antonio 20. **Technical**—Durant, Perkins. A—18,581 (18,797).

## Playoff scoring leaders

## Through May 19

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	14	146	108	436	31.1
James, OKC	10	99	81	295	29.5
Harden, HOU	6	50	45	161	26.8
Westbrook, OKC	14	126	99	371	26.5
Adams, POR	11	113	60	288	26.2
Howard, HOU	6	48	156	26.0	
DeRozan, TOR	7	71	138	25.4	
Griffin, LAC	13	117	71	306	23.5
Curry, GSW	7	51	37	161	23.0
Lillard, POR	11	83	252	22.9	
George, IND	10	98	77	309	22.1
Johnson, OKC	12	154	104	212	
Lowe, TOR	7	44	43	148	21.1
Ellis, DAL	12	52	143	20.4	
Paul, LAC	13	92	41	237	18.2
Walker, CHA	4	26	14	78	19.5
Milutinovic, ATL	7	31	13	74	19.4
Parsons, HOU	6	46	11	116	19.3
Teague, ATL	6	46	38	135	19.2
Beal, WAS	11	48	38	135	19.2

By BRIAN MAHONEY

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — The NBA charged Donald Sterling on Monday with damaging the league and its teams with his racist comments, setting up a June 3 hearing after which owners could vote to terminate his ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers.

The league also said the banned owner has engaged in other conduct that has impaired its relationship with fans and merchandising partners.

"All of these acts provide grounds for termination under several provisions of the NBA constitution and related agreements," the league said in a statement.

Sterling was banned for life and fined \$2.5 million by Commissioner Adam Silver after the release of a recording in which he made racist remarks. He has until May 27 to respond to the charge, and the right to appear at the hearing and make a presentation before the board of governors. He has the right to a lawyer at the hearing, but strict courtroom rules of evidence would not apply.

Sterling's attorney, Maxwell Blecher, asked for a three-month delay in response to the charge, a person with knowledge of the situation said, citing a report by SI.com. The league will not grant it, the person told The Associated Press on condition

## Spurs rout Thunder in Game 1

## Duncan, San Antonio take full advantage of Ibaka's absence

By RAUL DOMINGUEZ

The Associated Press

**SAN ANTONIO** — The San Antonio Spurs were not going to believe Serge Ibaka was really injured until the Oklahoma City Thunder took the court in the opener of the Western Conference finals without their athletic big man.

Their skepticism was unwarranted.

Ibaka is indeed injured and Oklahoma City needs to find a way to replace his defensive presence against San Antonio.

Tim Duncan had 27 points and the Spurs took advantage of Ibaka's absence to score more than half their points in the paint, beating the Thunder 122-105 Monday night in the opener of the best-of-seven series.

Tony Parker did not appear limited by a hamstring injury, adding 14 points and 12 assists in 36 minutes in San Antonio's first victory over Oklahoma City this season. Parker and coach Gregg Popovich both said earlier they weren't sure if the Thunder would actually be without Ibaka, who injured his left calf in Oklahoma City's series clincher against the Los Angeles Clippers.

"Contrary to what San Antonio was thinking, he's not coming back," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

That's bad news for Oklahoma City entering Game 2 on Wednesday.

San Antonio had 66 points in the paint and shot 58 percent from the field. It was the highest shooting percentage allowed by the Thunder in the postseason since relocating from Seattle.

The Thunder got their usual offensive output from All-Stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, who scored 28 and 25 points, respectively. But Oklahoma City's remaining starters, Nick Collison, Thabo Sefolosha and



San Antonio forward Tim Duncan, right, shoots against Oklahoma City forward Nick Collison during the first half of Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Monday in San Antonio.

Kendrick Perkins, combined to score five points with 13 rebounds and one assist.

Collison started in place of Ibaka and was 0-for-3 from the field with three rebounds and

one blocked shot.

Ibaka was averaging 12.2 points, 7.3 rebounds and 2.23 blocks in 33.9 minutes in the postseason.

## The charges against Sterling

The NBA began the formal process of seizing the Los Angeles Clippers from Donald Sterling on Monday, notifying the league's longest-tenured owner of the specific charges against him in a document that claims his racist comments damaged its relationship with players, sponsors and fans.

In a release titled "Summary of Sterling Termination Charge" posted online on Monday night, the NBA also said Sterling lied to the league during its investigation into his comments and destroyed evidence it was seeking in the probe.

Sterling has a chance to respond and the right to a hearing before the other owners' vote on June 3 on whether to strip him of his rights — technically, terminating his membership in the NBA. He would still have the team to the proceeds when the team is sold.

Sterling's lawyer declined comment Monday. A lawyer for his estranged wife, Shelly Sterling, said she will fight to retain her 50 percent ownership of the team.

The summary issued by the league included two sections — one listing the charges against Sterling, and the other detailing the provisions of the NBA constitution he is accused of violating. "Termination of LAC's entire membership — including Mrs. Sterling's interest in the team — is called for by the Constitution and related agreements," the summary concludes, "and is the only viable means for bringing Mr. Sterling's interest in the Clippers to an end."

Among the league's claims: "Sterling's discriminatory actions and positions have harmed the NBA and its member owners, players and the Clippers employees, and damaged its relationships with its fans, business partners and community leaders."

■ Sterling disparaged blacks and oth-

er minorities in a way that will "significantly undermine and call into question the NBA's commitment to diversity and inclusion."

■ Sterling destroyed evidence, lied to and misled the NBA investigator.

■ Refused to pay the \$2.5 million fine imposed on him by Commissioner Adam Silver on April 29.

To support its case, the league said Sterling's actions violated his duty to the other owners in four distinct ways — three articles of the NBA constitution and a New York state law.

■ Article 13(d) of the league constitution allows the league to seize a team if an owner "fails or refuses to fulfill its contractual obligations ... in such a way as to affect the Association or its members adversely." Sterling, the league said, failed "to use best efforts to see to it that the sport of professional basketball is conducted according to the highest moral and ethical standards."

■ Under New York Law, all teams of the NBA "owe each other a duty of loyalty to support the League in the attainment of its proper purposes, including the league's commitment to diversity and inclusion," the league said.

■ Under Article 13(a) of the league constitution, ownership rights can be terminated if the owner "willfully" violates the constitution of the bylaws. The NBA claims Sterling did so by misleading investigators and the public while the league was looking into his comments.

■ Under Article 13(c) of the league constitution, ownership can be terminated for a failure to pay dues or other debts to the league. Sterling's attorney has said he will pay a \$2.5 million fine that went with his lifetime ban following, according to the NBA constitution, he has 30 days to produce the money.

— Jimmy Golen, The Associated Press



## SPORTS



## Paint job

Spurs rout Thunder without defensive specialist Ibaka | **Page 31**

# Up to their elbows

## MLB puts focus on pitchers' health after 20 Tommy John surgeries in 2014

By RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

All of baseball is focused on a most precious 2½ inches — the average length of the ulnar collateral ligament.

This year, more than a dozen major league pitchers already have undergone Tommy John surgery — which involves replacing the elbow ligament with a tendon harvested from elsewhere (often the non-pitching elbow or forearm) in the patient's body. All-Stars Patrick Corbin, Josh Johnson and Matt Moore have had the surgery earlier in the year, and NL Rookie of the Year Jose Fernandez underwent his operation Friday.

"It's a problem. There's no question about it," baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said. "I'm almost afraid to pick up the paper every day because

there's some bad news."

The surgery forces a player to miss at least a full season, but many power pitchers — including Chris Carpenter (2007), Stephen Strasburg (2010) and Adam Wainwright (2011) — threw as hard with their repaired elbows as they did before. Matt Harvey is recovering from surgery last year.

The league hopes it can find ways to protect these million-dollar elbows before surgery is required.

**SEE ELBOWS  
ON PAGE 27**

The 20 Tommy John surgeries in 2014 are the most performed at this point of the season since Dr. Frank Jobe did the first operation in 1974. The busiest season for Tommy John surgery was 2012 with 35 operations.

SOURCES: ESPN.com,  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

CHUCK MYERS/MCT

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